



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)

Advent

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 4, 2022 · 9 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

It was an unlikely meeting. It was surprising enough when Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, who, coming from a long line of priests, was doing his duty in the temple. If an angel were to appear, perhaps appearing to an old priest doing his duty in the temple is the first place you might look. But this time Gabriel appears in the middle of nowhere, to a young girl, we only know by the name of Mary. It was an unlikely meeting. But, as you know, God often does that which is unlikely.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Wake! Awake, for Night is Flying), BWV 645*
by J. S. Bach; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Introit *Et in Terra Pax (And on Earth, Peace)*
by John Purifoy; Village Voices

Lighting the Advent Candle Dan, Carol, Reagan & Landon Solenberger (9 a.m.)
Charlie, Mariann, Sophie & Autumn Sun (11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Hear the words of the prophet, for he speaks of God's grace:

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news.**

Hear the words of the prophet, for God is calling us:

**The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
The Lord has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.**

God will speak through us,
**as we proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners.**

Hear the word of the prophet:

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
Let all the earth proclaim the year of God's favor.**

Sung Response

Peace dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Peace dawns on a weary world: The promised day of justice comes.

**The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!**

**We shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

*Hymn, No. 87 (v. 1,2)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

**Most patient God,
we ask for your patience once again,
for we have confused important things with things that do not matter.**

**We have been very busy, but sometimes failed to do what we know
you want us to do.**

So, we ask for your patience.

**But do not be too patient, for we need you to nudge us, to lead us,
to draw us closer to your promised day.**

**Let us start again in this moment, and perhaps in the days to come we will
be shaped by the grace we know from you. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response (sing when invited)

Je - sus, Je - sus, O what a won - der - ful child
Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek and mild; new
life, new hope the child will bring. Lis - ten to the
an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!" Let the heav - ens ring.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children (9 a.m.)

Call to Prayer

**Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

Glow

by Eric Whitacre; Village Voices

Prayer for Illumination

Elizabeth McKell (9 a.m.); Terri Piazza (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 931)

Sermon

Can We Go Over That First Part Again?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 145

What Child is This

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Christ Our Emmanuel (9 a.m.)

John Rutter; Village Choir

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (11 a.m.)

arr. Marianne Forman; Allison Ross, violin; More Love Chorale

*Sung Response

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 105 (v. 1,4,5)

People, Look East

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Philip Kern; Village Voices

*Postlude

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

arr. Aaron Shows; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

Whether this is your first time at Village, or you come so often you call it “home,” we are blessed that you are with us today. No matter where you are in your faith journey or life stage, no matter what questions or burdens you carry, Village takes seriously the call to be welcoming; we are glad you are here. Every Sunday we gather to read the old story, sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world in which we live this minute through sermons and prayer. By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ’s life, we discover hope and even joy.

If you are new to us, stick around after the service. Introduce yourself to one of our pastors. We have tons of programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. Give us a try; soon you might also be calling this place “home.”



Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
Senior Pastor

The Gathering – Join us for an alternative style of worship at Village Church offered 5 p.m. Sundays in Friendship Hall at our Mission Campus. Learn more at vpcthegathering.org.

Get Village Church news & updates – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, Rev. Tom Are Jr.'s weekly eNote and Daily Devotionals emails at villagepres.org/subscribe.

Follow us on Facebook @villagepres – **Follow us on Instagram** @villagechurchpv

Subscribe to **Village Pres Sermon Podcasts** on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify & Stitcher.

Christmas Eve Services

Mission Campus – 3 & 5 p.m. Children & Families Worship Services; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services in the Mission Campus Sanctuary, 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion. Child care is available for the 5 & 7 p.m. services only. All Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Antioch Campus – 5 p.m. Family Worship Service; 7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Service with Communion

Christmas Day Services – 10 a.m. service in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Rev. Tom Are is preaching; 9:30 a.m. service at the Antioch Campus. Rev. Tim Soule is preaching.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Register for Village U classes at villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

Christmas Around the World – Taught by Barbara Pendleton, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, Room 126. We'll see: Germany's Christkind angel; Ecuador's Passing of the Traveling Child parade; Ethiopia's Christmas sport, genna; and Christmas Eve services in the town of Bethlehem.

Who Was Jesus Really? Keeping the Christ in Christmas – Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14, Rooms 132 & 133. As we come upon the celebration of Christ's birth, we will explore who was Jesus really and exactly what can we know about Jesus as the historical figure and how that fits with our claims of the miracle of the incarnation.

Christmas in Bethlehem: The Palestinian Struggle for Justice – Taught by Margot Patterson, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, Room 126. In this course we will examine what it is like for Palestinians, and especially Christian Palestinians, to live, work and worship in the city of Christ's birth.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Child Care is available on the first floor during 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. services. Infants to 2-year-olds can be dropped off in Room 114. **Preschool Lighthouse** – Three-year-olds meet on the first floor in Room 107. Pre-K and 4-year-olds meet in Room 106. Registration and sign-ins are located outside Room 106. **Elementary Lighthouse** – K-6th Grade – All-Sing begins at 9 a.m. in Room 307. Registration and sign-ins are located outside of Room 307. Pick up for kids grades K-6 will be on the third floor.

FOOD PANTRY

Christmas preparations are underway, and the clients are looking for baking needs: small bags of flour; sugar; cake mixes; brownie mixes; vegetable oil or Crisco, etc. The Clothes Closet is asking for baking supplies: cookie sheets, cupcake tins, mixing bowls, kitchen utensils like wooden spoons, spatulas—all the things you would use when baking. Thanks for your generosity.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Decorate The Village Trees with Diapers, Hats and Mittens – Now through Dec. 24, bring hats, mittens and diapers (all sizes including adult large and XL) to put on and under our Mission Campus Christmas trees. Donations serve our Food Pantry families. Located in the Welcome Center and at the south entrance. Contact Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyce at 913-671-2369 or dionne.boyce@villagepres.org for more info.

Wednesday Family Dinners – Self-serve, buffet-style dinners in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus from 5-6 p.m. Dine in before your Village U class or take it home. Activities for kids. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by NOON on Monday at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners or call Karen at 913-262-4200. Join us for Christmas Dinner on Dec. 14.

MUSIC

2nd Thursday Recital-poco Rezound! – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Come hear the local handbell ensemble, poco Rezound! for a program of Christmas pieces to ring in the season. A meet the artist reception to follow. Free admission.

"A Big Band Christmas" With the Kicks Band – 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Go big—celebrate Christmas with one of Kansas City's favorite big bands and Village Church trumpeter Stan Chappell and bari-sax player Bob Coleman. Free admission.

Room For Christmas: A Christmas Musical – 10:10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, Mission Campus Sanctuary. It's the week before the church Christmas pageant, and the children are determined to bring new life to the story. Will the pageant be a flop, or will they discover the true joy of Christmas by making room for what really matters? As part of the production, we are asking the audience to bring a book (2nd-3rd grade level) up to the manger during the nativity scene. Your donated books will be shared with students at Kansas City International Academy.

Tidings of Joy – 3 & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join the Village Choirs and the Kansas City Wind Symphony present the 22nd annual Christmas concert. A free will offering will be collected for our Signature Mission: Reconciliation Services Therapy & Case Management Expansion. Admission is free. The concerts will also be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Faith & Grief Support Gathering Meets Tuesday, Dec. 6 – Join us when Ginny Miller shares lessons about life, death, and grief from a chaotic week of both joy and heartbreak. A box lunch is available. Pre-registration is helpful but not required. Register at faithandgrief.org/gatherings.

Join Us for The Remembrance Service – All are welcome at the annual Remembrance Service next Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary (parking in the north lot is encouraged.) A reception follows. The service will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Honor Your Loved One With A Poinsettia – When you purchase a poinsettia for \$15, you not only contribute towards the poinsettia ministry, you're also remembering your loved one. Your loved one(s)' name(s) will be printed in a future edition of the Good News. Visit shop.villagepres.org/poinsettia or send the printed name(s) with a check for \$15 per person to Janice Gill, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208 up through Dec. 14.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry is for all people in their 20's and 30's.

Wednesday Advent Bible Study – 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7. We re-remember our Christmas story in the best way we know how, with trivia! Jump in. Team up. Let's see how much we remember about the greatest story ever told. VillagePresYA.org/advent.

Family Dinner & Parent Connect Night – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14. Family dinner in Friendship Hall, 6 (ish)-7:30 p.m. kiddos go to child care, and parents gather in the Young Adult Room for conversation and connection. Parents, life with littles is a lot. Let us make dinner and give you some space to breathe together. Sign up required: VillagePresYA.org/parents.

Young Adult Christmas Party – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Boulevard Brewhouse Bar. The world is weird and while that continues to be true, we'll make our own merry, and be glimpses of bright for one another. RSVP's required! VillagePresYA.org/christmas.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Programs – You can view a list of all our weekly programs at villagepresyouth.org.

Confirmation Registration – You can now register for this year's Confirmation class! Confirmation is open to students who are in 9th grade, or older, who have not yet taken the class. Join us for this year's class! Registration can be found at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

Christmas at Village - We invite you to join us for any of our worship services, mission opportunities, concerts, classes and events at Village Church this Christmas season. Find a full list of offerings at villagepres.org/Christmas.

Advent Video Devotionals - As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us each day (Monday through Saturday now through Dec. 24) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors and church leaders. Sign up to receive these devotions in your email inbox each morning at villagepres.org/subscribe or subscribe to our YouTube channel where they will be added daily.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Hopes and Fears of All the Years

Christmas angels always tell us, "Do not be afraid!" We wish it were that easy. There is war in Ukraine. Gun violence is at a record pace. Truth is under assault and COVID lingers. Most of all, in so many ways we are living against each other, rather than for each other. The angel says "do not be afraid" but there is so much to fear.

Fear is always in the atmosphere. The angel is not ignorant of that reality, but the angel knows redemption has come, which means no hurt is so deep it cannot be healed. The angel is brimming with hope because the love of God took on skin and was born for you. No matter what has happened, the love of this season is for you. It will meet you wherever you are. It is a holy love that calls you by name. So, in a frightening world, do not be afraid.

- Nov. 27 Between Hopes and Fears - Rev. Zach Walker preaching
Dec. 4 Can We Go Over That First Part Again? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Dec. 11 So Good I Could Just Sing? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Dec. 18 The Importance of Blessing – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Dec. 24 This Night is For You – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor • Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist

Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyice, director of mission & engagement • Will Breytspraak, director of music
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Laura Davis, director of marketing & communications

Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry

Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music • Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor

Robert Rumold, director of information technology • Bob Sperry, director of giving & endowment

Sandra Stephens, director of child care • Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations

Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries • Alice Whitson, director of media ministry

Rev. Sally S. Wright, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, founding pastor, 1947-1994

Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher to bring you one.

Streaming video of Sunday services is available at villagepres.org/online.

You may call in to listen to a week-delayed broadcast of our Sanctuary service on our worship service phone line: 913-203-1301. You can opt-in to be called automatically at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship

Printed on paper from sustainably managed forests.