



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 26, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

"Pray without ceasing," Jesus instructs us. It's safe to say none of us has ever taken that particular instruction literally. So why does he say it? He has other confusing statements about prayer, as well. "Ask and it shall be given to you," he says. "Do not lose heart," he says, "God will not be long in helping you." These statements inspire confidence... but they don't always match our experience, do they? What are we to think about prayer when our prayers so often seem to go unanswered?

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Vater Unser im Himmelreich (Our Father in Heaven), BuxWV 219 (8 a.m.)
by Dieterich Buxtehude

O Be Joyful

by Cynthia Dobrinski; Village Ringers (9:30 a.m.)

A Joyful Ring

by Barbara B. Kinyon; Morning Bells (11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Rev. Ky Weekley

We come seeking the presence of God.

We sing in gratitude.

We yearn for healing.

We crave understanding.

We dance in celebration.

We lament what is broken.

We trust what is promised.

We come seeking the presence of God.

And God never leaves us wanting.

*Hymn, No.412

God, Reveal Your Presence
ARNSBERG

*Prayer of Confession

**Few of us misunderstand you all of the time,
but all of us misunderstand you some of the time:**

your thoughts on happiness;

your perspective on heaven;

your ideas about giving;

your response to prayer.

Your ways and your wishes challenge us.

We confess that sometimes we think we know better.

Forgive us our arrogance and our ignorance.

Release us from our need to have all the answers and to hold all the control.

Offer us the gift of trust yet again. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Response: Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters: Strategic Planning

Tyler Nottberg (8, 9:30 a.m.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Laura Hewitt (8 a.m.)
Patti Howell (9:30 a.m.)
Charles Schultz (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 11:5-13 (pg. 947)

Call to Prayer



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up-on my heart and live in me. heart and live in me.

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

I Believe

music: Mark Miller; Village Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1-8 (pg. 956)

Sermon

Pray Without Ceasing? You Can't Be Serious.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 470

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

LONGING

Offertory

The Nightingale and the Rose (8 a.m.)

by Christo Barrios; Amy Jantz, clarinet

Coronation (9:30 a.m.)

by Oliver Holden and Cynthia Dobrinski; Village Ringers

Rondo in G (11 a.m.)

by John Bull, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson; Morning Bells

*Response

**Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start.
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No.687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
ST. ANNE

*Benediction

*Response

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.
Be thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

*Postlude

Vater Unser im Himmelreich (Our Father in Heaven) BWV 683
by Johann Sebastian Bach

**All who are able may stand*
© A-705103 for all hymns

WORSHIP NOTES: OCCASIONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

These reflections are written by Village's staff, and it is our hope that knowing a bit more about some of the individual components of the church service may help us to experience more fully the gifts of this time together.

Prayers of the People

written by Rev. Zach Walker

Sometimes called the "Pastoral Prayer," during these moments of quiet and spoken words, we offer prayers of gratitude, praise and intercession for those in our community of faith as well as the wider world. Although this is not a prayer spoken in unison, it is offered on behalf of the community by one person for and about local and worldwide concerns. It speaks to what is both intensely personal (illness, grief, struggles and joys) as well as broadly felt (events related to justice in communities far away, responsible use of Creation and its resources). In our time of prayer, we are drawn together as we recognize, reflect and pray for the different needs and realities of the world in which we live while residing in the hope of God's promises. After offering our own words, we end with the the words Jesus taught his disciples to pray, which we now call the Lord's Prayer.

Today's organ prelude and postlude are Baroque pieces based on the hymn version of The Lord's Prayer. Like our own prayers, The Lord's Prayer can sometimes be musically interpreted slowly and peacefully, and at other times with a more insistent conviction.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of February 27, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Dr. Rodger Nishioka and are an offering for your own personal devotion. You are invited to read the text, think about the reflection and questions and allow these to lead you in a time of prayer. Pray for your own journey of faith. Pray for Village Church and our mission. Pray for God's world.

Monday, Feb. 27

Exodus 33:7-23

This reading comes in the midst of a tumultuous time in the relationship between God and the Hebrew people. In their wandering in the wilderness after Egypt and their waiting for Moses to come down from Mt. Sinai, the people decide to revert back to their idol-worshipping ways and create a golden calf. As a result, God is angered. So Moses sets up a tent for the worship of God and asks God for a new way of seeing God and God responds. As you prepare for the journey of Lent, what are some new ways you have seen God?

Tuesday, Feb. 28

1 King 19:9-18

After the triumph over the prophets of Baal, Elijah's life is threatened by an angry Queen Jezebel so he flees. He travels 40 days and nights (interesting number) and hides in a cave at Mt. Horeb. When God asks Elijah why he is hiding, Elijah responds that he is alone. So God tells Elijah to go out on the mountain and wait. Through a great wind, earthquake, fire and silence, God shows Elijah that he is not alone. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, when Christians around the world will join together on our journey to the cross. You are not alone. Who is joining you on this journey?

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Joel 2:1-17

The first 11 verses of today's reading describe the coming of God's awesome judgment. The scene is terrifying and verse 11 asks a profound question — in the face of such terrible judgment, who can possibly endure it? The answer comes in the sudden change in tone in verses 12-17. In the face of God's righteous judgment, we come before God with all humility and contrition. We repent, we fast and we ask for God's forgiveness. As this Lenten journey begins, pray for God's forgiveness and remember from dust you have come and to dust you shall return.

Thursday, March 2

Jonah 3:1-10

A reluctant Jonah finally arrives in Nineveh, a great city that has turned from God. The prophet begins to preach and tells the citizens that God has seen their evil ways and is going to destroy the city. When the king and all the people hear this, they repent and are contrite. The king proclaims a fast for all the city and its animals. Together, they plead to God for mercy and then in a surprising turn, God changes God's mind and decides to forgive them instead of destroying the city. Bible scholars cite this story as one of several examples of God's compassion. How have you experienced God's compassion in your life?

Friday, March 3

Isaiah 58:1-12

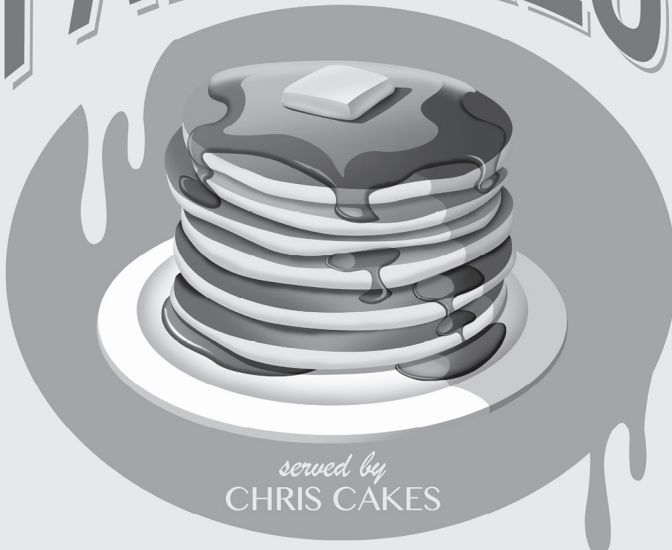
For many faithful persons, the journey of Lent includes an element of self-denial as a token reminder of the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made for us all. Some choose to give up something like chocolate or alcohol. Some choose to fast for a day each week. Some choose to refrain from texting during meals. Today's reading reminds us that whatever we choose to not do means little if we continue in our selfish and self-centered ways. God is not interested in a token action of self-denial if the rest of our lives are not aligned with faithfulness to God. So along with deciding what you will not do during lent, decide what you will do so that God may call you the "repairer of the breach" and the "restorer of the streets to live in."

Saturday, March 4

Psalms 51

This song was sung by David after the prophet Nathan indicted David about his sinfulness. Over the ages, many have repeated these verses both in private and in public. These are heartfelt and powerful words. They are honest and wrenching. Knowing that our actions inform our speaking and our speaking inform our actions, recite verses 10-12 with your hands open and palms turned up. Spread your arms wide to show God that your heart is open then ask God to "create in me a clean heart and to restore a right spirit within me."

PANCAKES



served by
CHRIS CAKES

9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY

03.05.17

FRIENDSHIP HALL
\$5 ALL YOU CAN EAT

SPONSORED BY
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

2017

Celebration of Faithful Women Brunch

10 a.m. Saturday, April 8
in Friendship Hall



Honoring three Village volunteers:
Marilyn Borel, Julie Foster and Virginia Stuhr



Sarah Are
speaking on
"Holy Nudging"

Cost: \$16 per person
Reservations open March 5

TODAY AT VILLAGE

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Refreshments are available in Friendship Hall following the worship service.

CHILI COOK OFF TODAY IN FRIENDSHIP HALL – This year's Cook Off is 6-8 p.m. today, and supports our youth mission trips. Tickets are \$10/person or \$35/family (entry is free if you enter a chili). We hope you can join us for this fun church event for a great cause.

THE GATHERING WILL BE IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY at 5 p.m. due to the Chili Cook Off.

WORSHIP BAGS are available for children to use as tools in worship. Please return the bags to the baskets located in the Narthex at the end of the worship service.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

PRESCHOOL CHURCH SCHOOL – Parents may check in their preschool-age child on the first floor in the Preschool wing. Church school classes are available at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

KIDS' KINGDOM – K–1st GRADES new curricula! Kindergarten meets in Room 311. First Grade meets in Room 303. 9:30-10:30 a.m. **2nd–5th GRADES** – Sign-in elementary (2nd-5th) aged students on the 3rd floor. Check the large bulletin boards located in the Children and Family wing for each grade's class location. 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Club V6 (6th Grade)** – Relevant discussions for today's 'tweens. Room 302. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CHILDREN SINGING – The Music Department is teaming up with Children and Family Ministry to incorporate a singing time for all 3rd-6th graders toward the end of the Sunday School hour. Beginning on March 5, for five weeks, the 3rd-6th Kids Kingdom classes will combine at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday to join in singing for 15 minutes. The children will sing in worship on Palm Sunday (April 9), along with the Morning Stars, Village Voices and the Village Choir. We are excited to have this exciting offering for all children to sing their faith! Contact Jenny Hull at 913-671-2385 for more information.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

BREAKFAST AND BIBLE WITH YOUR BUDDIES - Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning Bible study and breakfast. RSVP to marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Cost: \$6. Child care is not available 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, now-April 11. Room 228.

SABBATH YOGA WEDNESDAYS – Join us after Wednesday night dinner for a relaxing session of gentle and restorative yoga with centering prayer meditation. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your own yoga mat. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, now-May 17. Rooms 307-309-311.

BOOK CLUB – Join us for an interesting book discussion while your children enjoy child care. Our spring selections include: Feb. 21 – *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi; March 21 – *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith; and April 18 – *The Light of the World, A Memoir* by Elizabeth Alexander. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, March 21 and April 18. Room 206. Led by Nicki Johnston.

BEGINNER EXCEL CLASS – Topics include identifying the components of an Excel spreadsheet, entering data into an Excel spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will be creating a simple spreadsheet during the class. 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15 and 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 16 in Room 316. Call Marianne at 913-671-2333 to register.

GAME NIGHT – Are you looking for a fun night out? Come to Game Night! Bring your favorite board game or play one provided. Come learn a new game, and meet new friends. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, March 30 and April 27. Room 233. Hosted by Kyle and Sandra Stephens.

INFANT, CHILD & ADULT CPR BASICS – Learn the critical skills needed to respond and to manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac emergency in the first few minutes until emergency services arrive. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. Room 132. Additional course materials fee: \$12/person.

STEAMBOAT ARABIA MUSEUM DAY TRIP – In the year 1856, the steamboat Arabia had just left Kansas City when she sank in just minutes. Over time the river's course moved, leaving the Arabia and her treasures buried deep beneath a Kansas farm field. Men and machines unearthed remarkably preserved frontier supplies — the world's largest collection. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, March 2. Facilitated by Georgia Klein. Cost for the tour and luncheon is \$20 per person.

PREPARING TO SELL YOUR HOME: A WORKSHOP ESPECIALLY FOR OLDER ADULTS – As many older adults contemplate downsizing and moving, selling their beloved home of many years is a very important step. Come learn about what you should be thinking about whether selling your home is a current possibility or years in the future. 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4. Room 127. Taught by Carole Mosher.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Are you looking to brush up on your professional development? Come share your personal experiences and learn how to increase your presence at work or on interviews. 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 6. Room 126. Taught by Sandra Stephens.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT: ENGAGING THE SENSES – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 8-April 12, Room 230. Join Rev. Jenny McDevitt for a fresh, experiential journey through the holy season of Lent. This six-week series will explore the Stations of the Cross as a way to deepen faith and engage in conversation, creativity and contemplation.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME: EXPLORING THE WISDOM OF POPE FRANCIS – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 8-29, Room 127. Father Bob Hagan, S.J. of Guardian Angels Catholic Church and Village member Nicola Juricak will lead an exploration of Pope Francis' second papal encyclical titled "Praise be to You—On Care for Our Common Home." In language that is clear and convicting, Pope Francis calls on all Christians to understand that our concern for the natural world is integral to our faithfulness. The paper thoughtfully discusses poverty, the environment, technology and science with practical guidelines for our lives.

PRESBYTERIAN 101 – WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “PRESBYTERIAN?” - This course will explore what it means to be “Presbyterian” in the 21st century. We will look briefly at how the Presbyterian stream of Christians came to be, the key tenets of our theology and practice of being of the church, what makes us distinctive and what we have to offer to the rest of the Christian church and to the whole world that God created and so loves. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. March 8-29. Rooms 132 & 133. Taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 – Tuna noodle casserole, chicken cacciatore over quinoa pilaf. Cost: \$7 for full buffet, \$6 for salad bar and dessert. Salad bar starts serving at 5:15 p.m. followed by the hot food bar from 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$3-children ages 3-10. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are required by noon on the Monday preceding the Wednesday Night Dinner if you wish to attend. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners to make a reservation.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – A lot of canned vegetables is the request from the Food Pantry. Each family unit receives at least six cans of vegetables as they shop each month. Think outside the box: (we have an abundance of corn, peas and green beans) how about spinach, yams, asparagus, tomatoes, beets, refried beans, etc. The Clothes Closet needs shoes, boots and good quality socks of all sizes.

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES – Friday, March 10, Village will cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. We need two to three people from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and six to seven volunteers to serve and clean up from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations, and they can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 9. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY GARDEN GATHERING – Those interested in joining or who are already on the Village Community Garden team are invited to the spring kick-off breakfast and social from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10, at First Watch in Fairway. Attendees pay for their own meal. RSVP to Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org by Monday, March 6.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

NEED SOME HELP? A RIDE TO THE DOCTOR? A MEAL WHILE YOU HEAL? – Helping Hands Ministries are here to assist you in many ways. The ministry's three separate groups can provide occasional help with household chores, assist with transportation or bring a meal. If you could use some help or want to be a part of this outstanding volunteer group, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CELEBRATION OF FAITHFUL WOMEN 2017 BRUNCH WILL HONOR THREE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Marilyn Borel, Julie Foster and Virginia Stuhr at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 8. Join us for a delicious meal prepared by Chef Emily and a presentation by our featured speaker, Sarah Are. We will enjoy friendship and fellowship at this very special event. Tickets are \$16 per person and can be purchased between services on March 5, 12, 19 and 26.

SACRISTY COMMITTEE

COMMUNION will be part of the Ash Wednesday service next Wednesday and for the Sunday, March 5 service. For those with gluten allergies, gluten free wafers and napkins (in which to hold them) will be available before you enter the Sanctuary - on the Narthex credenza at the back of the Sanctuary, at the east and west doors at the front of the Sanctuary, and in the balcony. The ushers greeting at those doors will point out the location of the gluten free wafers. Please hold your wafer until we all partake of the sacraments together during the service.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THURSDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP – 6:30 p.m. upstairs at Village Church. Faith is a practice. It cannot be something we learn, or search for, or think about. It must be something we do, and do regularly enough that the lines between sacred and secular are blurred by eyes that can't help but to see the holy. We're reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar In The World* and practicing community together. All 20s and 30s invited. Pizza provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft Room 333/332.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE (SNL) – The new name for our high school youth group! SNL meets tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome for a night of discussion, amazing people and a great time!

TWOSDAYS – Middle schoolers join us Tuesdays for our after-school program from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft, Room 333. All are welcome!

GPS – Middle school youth group, meets Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us for a great night of people, games and conversation. We hope to see you there!



WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY - If weather is predicted to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. service will be cancelled.

Village Church Town Hall Meeting

5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in Friendship Hall

What are the strengths of Village Church? What are our challenges? What is the future to which God is calling us?

Come for a conversation with members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee has been tasked by the session to create a plan for the way forward for Village Church. The committee began its work in the fall and has been engaged in a number of strategic conversations and now seeks the collective wisdom of the congregation as a whole. Come to listen. Come to talk. Come to share your hopes and concerns.

A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP by calling the church at 913-262-4200 or through the church website at villagepres.org under the "Stay Informed" tab and "Upcoming Events."

There will further opportunities to engage the committee in conversation.

Committee members are Tyler Nottberg, chair, Abbey Thomas, George Saterlee, Henry Sewing, Kenyon Vrooman, Lucy Tidwell, Michelle O'Neal, Mike Stradinger, Rev. Tom Are, Jr. and Dr. Rodger Nishioka.

Gifts of Stocks, Securities and IRA Distributions

Village Church is happy to accept gifts of stock, securities or IRA Distributions. It is very helpful to know about the transfers in advance, and to know how to credit the gift. For any information and to share with us your gift plan, please call Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325, or Kathy Lueckert, 913-671-2365.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

7 p.m. March 1 in the Sanctuary

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 VILLAGE CHURCH OFFICERS

The Village Church Nominating Committee needs your help in matching abilities with responsibilities. They are seeking recommendations for elders, elder trustees and deacons for 2018. Submit the form on our website: villagepres.org under the "About" section and "Officers" page. The link is at the top of the Officers page. Printed forms are also available at the Receptionist Desk. Forms must be received by Sunday, March 26, 2017.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

The People You Meet Along the Way

Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem. It was a journey on foot and a journey of the heart. A cross awaited him. When you know the end is near your time is precious and you pay attention to the people around you. Jesus spoke with his followers, and a rich man. He noticed children and an impoverished woman. Jesus paid attention to them all. We will pay attention to them as well, and discover that there is a little bit of all of them in us. I suppose that means we are on the journey as well, at least the journey of the heart.

March 5	Let's Go Over This One More Time for James and John
March 12	This Guy Thinks It's All About Him
March 19	Jesus is Interrupted and Schooled by a Courageous Woman – Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching
March 26	He Got Everything Right and Still Missed It by That Much
April 2	Would You Want To Be a Kid Again?
April 9	Do You See That Woman . . . She Looks a Lot Like Jesus
Maundy Thursday	That's Just the Way of the World
Good Friday	Tenebrae Service
Easter: April 16	The Heart of the Matter

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care ❖ Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of children and family ministry
Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry and bridge site pastor of Village on Antioch
Marjean Lindquist, director of child care ❖ Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration
Ryan Main, interim director of music ❖ Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care
Dr. Rodger Nishioka, director of adult educational ministry ❖ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music
Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship & endowments ❖ Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries
Deborah White, director of mission ❖ Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

*Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services is available at villagepres.org.
Click the home page link "Live Sermon and Sermon Archives."*

The 8 a.m. Sanctuary worship service is broadcast live on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.

*Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available for worship. Ask an usher if you need these items.
Please note that additional parking is available across Mission Road in the Prairie School parking lots.
If you are not taking your bulletin with you, please hand it to an usher so it may be recycled.*