SERVICE OF WORSHIP
September 29, 2019 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE

The prophet Amos lifts up a theme that is found in almost all the prophets: poverty. For the prophets, poverty is a sign that the community has failed. So, Amos speaks to those who are not poor and invites them to see themselves not as blessed or fortunate or self-made, but as called to rebuild the community.
**Call to Worship**

Before we drew our first breath,

> our names were etched into the heart of God.

Before the sun could rise,

> God watched over us and granted us this new day.

Before we entered these doors,

> God was waiting to welcome us,

> like a parent welcoming a child home.

---

**Hymn, No. 667**

*Prayer of Confession*

> When morning gilds the skies,

> my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised.

Except when we forget about You,

> or believe we have more important matters to consider.

Perhaps more painful for You, O God,

> is when our praise echoes to the rafters,

> but we ignore our neighbors,

> and pass by the poor,

> and overlook the lonely.

We want to praise You with heart and voice,

> and also with relationships that are just. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace*
*Response (from Hymn, No. 641)

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

*Passing of the Peace

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer

Qui - et-ly, peace - ful-ly let me rest in you.

Qui - et-ly, peace - ful-ly lead me back to you.

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

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace
by John Rutter; Village Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Tucker (8 a.m.)
Laura Edgington (9:30 a.m.)
Beth Winetroub (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Amos 6:4-7 (pg. 839)

Sermon

Isn’t God Supposed to Bless Me? Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

As Long As Our Table
by Adam Tice and Colin Gibson; Village Choir

As long as our table isn’t big enough to share,
as long as our arms don’t open wide enough with care,
as long as there are people whom our standards must exclude,
as long as we assume a holy, haughty attitude,
we will never, no never know peace—
we will never, no never know peace.

As long as our action grows from fear of what seems strange,
as long as our structures are opposed to any change,
as long as there are people who aren’t “pure enough” to bless,
as long as we keep clean because we stay out of the mess,
we will never, no never know peace—
we will never, no never know peace.

As long as our dialog excludes the other side,
as long as our faith must take its root in stubborn pride,
as long as we can’t see that our assertions may be wrong,
as long as shouting voices drown the harmony of song,
we will never, no never know peace—
we will never, no never know peace.

One day when we turn from judging sins to meeting needs,
one day when we follow Christ with all our words and deeds,
one day when we acknowledge ev’ryone has need of grace,
one day when we can look at anyone and see God’s face,
we will open our hearts to God’s peace—
we will open our hearts to God’s peace.

Offertory

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (8 a.m.)
by Douglas Wagner; Morning Bells

Prayer (9:30, 11 a.m.)
by Engelbert Humperdinck; Village Ringers

*Response (from Hymn, No. 708)

We give thee but thine own, what-e’er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*Prayer of Dedication
Adam Tice wrote today's middle hymn, "As Long As Our Table," as a protest to narrow, exclusionary doctrines that prize a false sense of purity ahead of God's expansive grace. Tice dedicated the hymn to all those Jesus would welcome, but who have been disciplined, expelled, excommunicated or otherwise deemed less-than-worthy to participate in the Body of Christ. This hymn is fitting for the Village Church family, as our stated mission is, "to see and relate to every person in our communities and the world as loved by God."

This morning’s offertory, “Prayer,” is an arrangement of “Evening Prayer” from Englebert Humperdinck’s opera “Hansel and Gretel.” The children, abandoned deep in the woods, remind one another that they are not alone, even when they do feel well and truly lost. They sing “When at night I go to sleep, fourteen angels watch do keep. Two my head are guarding, two my feet are guiding; two upon my right hand, two upon my left hand. Two who warmly cover, two who o’er me hover, two to whom ‘tis given to guide my steps to heaven.” One of the many reasons we gather to worship together is to remind each other of God’s constant presence; like these fourteen angels, our loving God sits with us always, whether we’re feeling confident or like a lost child.

One of the phrases that lives in the theological imagination of the prophets declares that God’s children are to be a “light to the nations.” To say this another way, Christian faith should be good for the Christian, but also for everyone the Christian encounters, near and far. Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday. We will lift up the ways Village is endeavoring to be a light to the nations.
The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick and are offered for your own personal devotion. To prepare for World Communion Sunday – which began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in the 1930’s – on Oct. 6, here are a few passages from the New Testament that explore the practice and significance of the sacrament.

**Monday, Sept. 30**
Matthew 26:26-29
This is Matthew’s account of the first ever “communion,” which was rooted in the Passover tradition. Remembering God’s desire to be in covenant relationship with us (think about Abraham, Noah, and David) what do you think is meant when Jesus refers to the cups as his “blood of the covenant?”

**Tuesday, Oct. 1**
Mark 14:17-21
What does it mean that Jesus knowingly shares in this meal with the one who will betray him?

**Wednesday, Oct. 2**
After his resurrection Jesus returns to his disciples, but for some reason they do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. Why do you think that would be the moment when they finally recognized the man sitting across from them as Jesus himself?

**Thursday, Oct. 3**
Acts 2:43-47
At the first Pentecost the gifts of the Holy Spirit were poured out upon the crowds. This passage describes several ways in which those first converts lived together. Breaking bread, which is a shorthand way of describing “communion” (or something very much like it) is in that list. What is the common thread holding that list together?

**Friday, Oct. 4**
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
How does the sharing of bread and cup affect the church? Have you ever felt what is described here when you have taken cup and bread?

**Saturday, Oct. 5**
1 Corinthians 11:17-34
The Apostle Paul believed that breaking bread together demanded a certain way of living, but the church in Corinth was not living out that ethic. There was a practice in that day of the voluntary association meal in which different social strati would dine together, with the elite classes eating first, leaving whatever was left for the working classes to dine upon. It seems Corinth is following this practice. According to Paul, what are the consequences of that? Why do you think he uses such strong language?
Join us for our 5th Annual TODAY!

FOOD TRUCK

FESTIVAL

5-7 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 29

Village Church on Mission North Parking Lot
Five gourmet food trucks and live music by the Aaron Linscheid Trio!

Sponsored by the Connectional Ministries Committee

5:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23

TICKETS ON SALE IN FRIENDSHIP HALL AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES & DURING WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER!
$10/PERSON OR $35/FAMILY
ENTER A CHILI & GET IN FOR FREE!

YOUTH@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

CHILI COOK-OFF
TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

DISCOVER VILLAGE KIOSKS – Located at the North Welcome Center entrance and in Friendship Hall, Discover Village is a place where people can share conversation, ask questions of our hosts and enjoy a cookie. Whether you are newer to Village or a long-time member and have an interest in serving, connecting, or growing, come to the Discover Village kiosk.

NEW TO US? Village Presbyterian Church is a family of faith actively shaped by the life of Christ to love one another, providing leadership for the transformation of our communities and serving the world. We are a Presbyterian (USA) family of faith that is inclusive, generous and welcoming of all people. Village is one church worshiping at two campuses: Village on Mission (6641 Mission Road in Prairie Village) and Village on Antioch (14895 Antioch Road in Overland Park). If you would like a tour of Village on Mission, contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331.

JOINING VILLAGE CHURCH – Village welcomes new members every other month at a special Sunday luncheon. Join us Dec. 8. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for information.

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

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

TECH TALK – 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Room 316. Tony Liu will discuss where and how to store personal data in the public cloud. Data deletion considerations and techniques will also be explored. Email Anthonygreeneliu@gmail.com for more information.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PRAY MORE FAITHFULLY? To be more welcoming? To grow in your walk with Jesus? The FEAST is a journey that begins with a day-long retreat on Saturday, Oct. 19, and continues for four Saturday morning sessions. Engaging and very practical, you will grow not only in your relationship with God but also with others. FEAST leadership: Ed Dexter, Bob Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Michelle O’Neal, Karen Reimer and Susan Satterlee. Space is limited to 20 persons. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka at rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES – Four ongoing adult classes learn and grow together 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. From studying the New Testament to exploring the ancient biblical world to deciding how Christians live faithfully given today’s complex challenges, all are welcome. For more information about these classes, the teachers and the locations, talk with a Discover Village guide at our north and south entrances.

UPCOMING VILLAGE U CLASSES:

BELIEVING AND BELONGING – (Part Two for New Members: Conversation with Rev. Tom Are) 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in Room 15. In this session, participants will share conversation with our senior pastor. This is your opportunity to ask Tom anything about Village Church. RSVP for this course by registering online. RSVP for free child care (seven days advanced notice required) to Marjean Lindquist at marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org or 913-671-2322.

MEN’S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE WITH REV. TOM ARE – 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 1-29, & Nov. 5, 12, in Room 228. Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning Bible Study. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast. To make a reservation for breakfast, register online. Cost: $6. Child care is not available.

RECIPE SWAP POTLUCK – 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, in Rooms 126 and 127. Stuck in a recipe rut? Need some new dinner ideas. Bring an easy dish to share and copies of the recipe.
RISING STRONG™ FOR WOMEN (Weekend Course) – 5-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, in Rooms 132 & 133. Using the powerful curriculum created by Dr. Brené Brown, author of the New York Times bestseller “Rising Strong,” our two-day intensive course. Child care is not available. $200 per person which includes course cost, a workbook, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. For more information, email danna@havertytherapy.com.

FINANCIAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION – 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Room 232. This session will cover the current scams in our area, how to get help and who to call. Most of the session focuses on almost 90% of those committing these crimes – our family, our caregivers and our friends. How do we protect ourselves from those we trust with our care? Child care is not available.

INTERMEDIATE PRESENTATIONS – 1-2:30 p.m. and 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in Room 316. This class explores how to utilize the features found in standard presentation software to enhance your presentation. Topics covered include adding video clips and video files to a presentation, using the timer feature to move from slide to slide, adding speaker notes to your presentation (that only you can view) and ideas to consider when creating a presentation. Registration is necessary. Child care is not available.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

ALL SERVICES–CHILD CARE – Infants to 4-year-olds are welcome in Rooms 114, 111 and/or 107.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:25-10:30 a.m. – 2 to 4-year-olds/Pre-K—Preschool Sunday School meets on the first floor. Registration and age specific room assignments are posted outside Room 107. K-6th grade—Kids’ Kingdom Sunday school meets on the third floor. Registration and grade specific room assignments are posted outside Room 307. Room information is also posted outside Room 207.

NEW THIS YEAR, WE ARE DOING ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL – Visit our link to register your child – https://vpcpvks.brushfire.com/childrens/457086

MORNING STARS – 3-year-olds through 6th graders are welcome to join and sing. We meet from 10:30-11 a.m. Angel Choir (3 to 4-year-olds) meet in Room 204; Prelude Choir (K-2nd grade) meet in Room 201; Hallelujah Choir (3rd-6th grade) meet in Room 304. Pick up for all children is outside of their Morning Stars room. To register your child for Morning Stars, visit: https://vpcpvks.brushfire.com/childrens/457086

BAPTISMS and NEW BABIES – The last baptism of the year is scheduled for Nov. 10. An education class is offered for all members who are planning to baptize their children at Village. Share news of your new baby so we can welcome your new arrival with a gift. Call 913-671-2350 or email kate.ruecker@villagepres.org.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNERS – People of all ages can gather before class, choir practice, or just take a night off from cooking. Chef Emily prepares a hot buffet, salad bar & dessert ($7) or salad bar & dessert ($6). Children ages 10 and under are free! Now with a children’s play area. Credit cards accepted. The menu for Oct. 2 is roast pork with apples, scalloped potatoes, vegetarian dish, vegetable. Reservations required by noon tomorrow. Contact Liz at 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go online at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners.

2019-2020 VILLAGE CONNECT (small group ministry) is a way to strengthen faith through conversations, while making and deepening friendships. Trained leaders are provided along with a video study developed by Rev. Tom Are. Open to the congregation and community, the groups include: couples, women, and mixed (men & women). Groups decide frequency, location, time for meetings. Contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for more information.

CASUAL GOLF OUTING – These monthly outings are a four-person scramble format. This is our last outing of the season. All are invited. You do not need to be a member of Village Church. The next outing is at Falcon Lakes on Tuesday, Oct. 8, with a 9:30 a.m. modified shotgun start. RSVP by Oct. 1, to Brad Steil at 913-469-5683 or bradsteil@everestkc.net.
MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – October is almost here and the bountiful donations of fresh produce are dwindling at the Food Pantry. As a result, the Pantry is asking for canned vegetables during October, ex. tomatoes, spinach, carrots, potatoes, black beans, etc. The Clothes Closet knows October brings cooler temps and is asking for winter clothing, sweaters, jackets, hats, warm socks, scarves, etc. Please check your closets to fill our closet!

PEACEMAKING OFFERING AND GLOBAL WITNESS (OCT. 6 ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY) – This special offering is used for the following: 50% enables the Peacemaking Program to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the Presbyterian Church; 25% is given to our presbytery and synod for their peacemaking efforts; 25% is retained by Village Church for our own peacemaking ministry. White envelopes for this offering reside in the hymnal slot in front of you.

CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE (CIH) SEEKING HOST FAMILIES – This cultural exchange program that hosts international college students over the holidays is seeking volunteers to serve as a day host or as a host family. Beginning Dec. 18-28, families may host for one or two weeks. Contact Judy Miller at judy.miller@evergy.com or 816-651-5387 or Jan Liu at janliu_ks@yahoo.com or 913-269-6333 for more information.

MUSIC MINISTRY

KANSAS CITY WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT – Join us at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary for the first concert of the 2019-20 season. Admission is free. The program will feature music by Bernstein, Verdi, Giroux, Sheldon and Gustav Holst. We hope you will join us.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

FAITH AND GRIEF LUNCH IS THIS TUESDAY – Join us at noon this Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Friendship Hall when guest speaker Rev. Zac Sturm talks about “grieving from a distance,” which can happen when you can’t be there to say goodbye or attend the funeral. Lunch is provided. Register or walk-in that day. To find out more, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE HOME COMMUNION? – Home communion will take place the weeks of Oct. 14 and 21. If you would like a pastor to come to your home and share this sacrament with you, let Linda Alley know at either 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SEEKING PW HONORARY LIFE MEMBER NOMINATIONS – Submit candidates for the 2019-20 Honorary Life Membership award to be given at the Celebration of Faithful Women Event March 21, 2020. Nominate a Village Church woman who strives to “promote the mission of the church, nurtures your faith, works for peace and justice and promotes an inclusive community through service and leadership to the church.” Submit nominations by Oct. 15 to Ann Flanders, 913-558-2155 or Niki Krenzel, 315-767-6629 or VPCPWHLM@gmail.com.

MISSION SEWING – Join women of all ages who enjoy machine sewing, hand sewing and good fellowship. Or choose home projects to knit and crochet. Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. or Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon in Room 115. Contact Tuesday group-Cheryl Brady (cba50@mindspring.com or 816-531-9327) or Anna Staton (staton.anna@yahoo.com or 913-669-6743). Thursday group-Nancy Cantril (Nancy.cantril@gmail.com or 913-638-8049) or Dee Gound (dkgound@kc.rr.com or 913-961-7473).

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

BECOMING MARRIED PRE-MARITAL CLASS – Begins Oct. 1 and runs for five weeks, 6:30-8 p.m. If you’re an engaged couple looking for pre-marital counseling, this is for you! This class is required for all couples being married at Village Church, and open to all other engaged couples. To register, go to: VillagePresYA.org/couples.
THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – Every Thursday at 7 p.m. This week at Village Church, Upper Room. Jump into our fall series, “Confession in a Chaotic Age.” This week we’ll consider how we got here, as in, how our families originally migrated to this country, and how the faith they brought with them has shaped our landscape and lives. More info and locations at VillagePresYA.org/thursdays.

COUPLES CONNECT – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9. Couples! Join us for a new thing! Every second Wednesday we’re getting together for food and conversation to reconnect with our partners and with each other. Relationships are easier when we have friends to journey with. Don’t miss it! RSVP required: VillagePresYA.org/couples.

YOUTH MINISTRY

JOIN US FOR ANY OF OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES – All are welcome regardless of previous Village attendance and no sign-up is required. Check villagepresyouth.org for more details.

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:30 a.m. Youth Loft (Room 333) for middle school, Upper Room (319) for high school.

SNL (high school youth group) – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sundays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

LOFTERNOONS (middle school after school program) – 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Youth Loft (Room 333).

GPS (middle school youth group) – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

EARLY TABLE (morning devotional for high schoolers with food) – 7:30-8:15 a.m. Thursdays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333), with rides to school available.

TRIPS REGISTRATION – Online registration is open for the high school ski trip (Jan. 18-22), middle school ski trip (Feb.15-19), and Spring break Dominican Trip (March 14-21). Ski trips are now on a wait list. All forms are available online; visit villagepresyouth.org/forms for more information.

MS EMERALD CITY (OCT. 10) & HS TOP GOLF (OCT. 11) – Celebrate the end of the quarter with special events happening in October! Middle school is going to Emerald City from 9-11 p.m. Oct. 10 (Cost: $20) and high school is going to Top Golf from 10 a.m.-noon Oct. 11 (Cost: Free!). Top Golf needs no registration (just show up). Register for Emerald City at https://www.villagepresyouth.org/forms.

Flu Shots
9-11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, in Friendship Hall. One morning only this year.
Please bring your insurance member ID card.

Congregational Meeting Today
The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for today, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission for the purpose of hearing and acting upon a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The work of the committee is to offer candidates for the associate pastor for pastoral care positions.
SERMON SERIES

God May Not Be Who You Think She Is
Sept. 8-Oct. 27

This is a study of the Prophets. Sometimes the Prophets critique those who do not trust in God, but usually, they are correcting (or reminding) people’s confused understandings of God. That’s something all of us suffer from at times. Our understanding of God is never stagnant, or at least it shouldn’t be. The prophets try, often unsuccessfully to push God’s people toward greater faithfulness.

Sept. 8 Fire Shut Up in My Bones
Sept. 15 This Is Real Life
Sept. 22 We Have Been Here Before
Sept. 29 Isn’t God Supposed to Bless Me?
Oct. 6 A Light To the Nations (World Communion Sunday)
Oct. 13 What Does God Expect From Us? - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching
Oct. 20 Someone’s Crying, Lord
Oct. 27 I Don’t Care What Other People Think…Too Bad

MINISTERS
All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM
Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor ☼ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Will Breytspraak, director of music ☼ Rev. Becky Chamberlain, interim pastor of pastoral care
Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick, site pastor of Village on Antioch ☼ Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry
Brooke Latas, director of children and family ministry ☼ Marjean Lindquist, director of child care
Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor ☼ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music
Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship and endowments ☼ Bob Sperry, interim director of finance
Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries ☼ Deborah White, director of mission
Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries ☼ Rev. Sally Wright, interim pastor of pastoral care
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

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

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 Sanctuary worship service is broadcast live at 8 a.m. on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.
We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.
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.