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## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 15, 2019 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The return of Christ on the clouds is a strange thing to contemplate. You may be tempted to toss this story aside and cling to more substantive teachings. However, unless this story is trustworthy, most of the rest of the story of Jesus matters very little.

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Wake! Awake, for Night is Flying, BWV 645*  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Lauren Dornbusch, Abby Schipfer & Sam Vaughan (8 a.m.)  
Sarah, Bill, Robby & Marian Parrott (9:30 a.m.)  
Jenny, Brad, Katie & Brady Hull (11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Come now to this place of rest and renewal;  
let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**God strengthens those who are weak,  
comforts those who are broken-hearted,  
and God's light is life for all.**

\*Response

from Hymn, No. 79, v. 1

**Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.  
Light 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. 115 (choir only on v. 2)

*Away in a Manger*  
MUELLER

\*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Melanie Hardison

**Gracious and Eternal God,  
We have been busy this week.  
Life is full of responsibilities,  
most of which, when viewed from Your perspective, are insignificant.  
Our prayer this week is simple:  
train our eyes to see what You see,  
our hearts to love what You love,  
our desire to want what You want.**

**With Your help, we will draw closer to the dreams You have always held for us—  
dreams You have never forgotten,  
dreams You will never abandon.** (Silent Prayer)

\*Assurance of God's Grace

\*Response

from Hymn, No. 113

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\*Passing of the Peace

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lilly Webb (8 a.m.)

Katie Hull (9:30 a.m.)

Sophie Sun (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:29-31 (pg. 903)

Call to Prayer

from Hymn, No. 92

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

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

*Advent Alleluia*  
arr. Keith Christopher; Village Voices

Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:36-44 (pg. 903)

Sermon

*The End of Trouble*

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

# RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn, No. 138

*Who Would Think That What Was Needed*  
WHITE ROSETTES

Offertory

*Fum, Fum, Fum!*  
arr. Alice Parker; Village Voices

\*Response

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.**

**Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn, No. 147 (v. 1-4)

*The First Nowell*  
THE FIRST NOWELL

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.**

\*Postlude

*Wake! Awake, for Night is Flying*  
by Wayne L. Wold

*\*All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

## A LOOK TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY. . .

The Angel came to Mary and made her a promise: The Lord is with you. This conversation with Gabriel changed her world. But the reason we know about this conversation with Gabriel is because it changed the whole world. We may not be home yet, but Mary is showing us the way.

## WELCOME CENTER ART FOR ADVENT

Visit the Welcome Center where you can find the four candles of the Advent Wreath, representing hope, peace, joy and love. This year, we invite you to add your own story to these values that we celebrate every year. Where do you see hope in this world? Where do you see the need for hope? Come by anytime during Advent and use the Post-It Notes provided to contribute where you see the presence of and need for these Advent themes in our world. The result will be our collective dreams coming together to inform our prayers for this season.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

**Village on Mission** – All services will be in the Sanctuary.

3 & 5 p.m. Children & Family Worship Services with The Gathering Band

7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Services

11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Service with Communion

All Village on Mission Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online)

**Village on Antioch** – Both services will be in the Sanctuary.

4 p.m. Family Worship Service

7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Service with Communion

## THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 15, 2019)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Tom Are, Jr. and are offered 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, pray for the community around you, and pray for all of creation.

### **Monday, Dec. 16**

**Psalm 56**

The psalmist is in need of deliverance. The situation described in the psalm is one of attack and danger. And yet the center portion of the psalm speaks of God's faithfulness: "You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle." The result of God's faithfulness is not necessarily a change in life's circumstances, but the psalmist now gladly sings, "I am not afraid."

### **Tuesday, Dec. 17**

**1 Peter 2: 9-10**

This is a text of definition. God's act in Jesus Christ gives us our identity. We are the redeemed of God. Such a defining act of grace is the catalyst for mission: we are to proclaim the mighty works of God. What will you do today that reflects the fact that you belong to God?

### **Wednesday, Dec. 18**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Paul calls the Corinthians Saints (v. 2). If you read the rest of the letter you know that the Corinthians were struggling with many issues of faithfulness. They are not saints in the way we think of saints: the spiritually elite. But when Paul calls them saints he is not speaking of their faithfulness, but rather God's faithfulness. God has made them God's children. To be a saint is to be a recipient of the grace of God. Whether you have thought so before or not, you are a saint!

### **Thursday, Dec. 19**

**Mark 1:1-8**

John is the repentance preacher. We may not be aware every day of a need for forgiveness, but on the days that we know we need to be forgiven, the promise that we can be renewed in God's love is the greatest gift.

### **Friday, Dec. 20**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

John could see a new day coming. Life tomorrow could be different from life yesterday. For those who thought the world was running just as it should, John's news was threatening; but for those who yearned for life to be more just, more compassionate, more holy, John's promise that God's love was like an unquenchable fire came as welcomed good news.

### **Saturday, Dec. 21**

**Matthew 11:2-15**

This text begins with John's question to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" The question reflects disappointment. John, as Jesus' forerunner, did not anticipate going to prison. John is, after all, God's prophet. Jesus came as a surprising kind of savior. What we learn from John is that harsh circumstances in life are not evidence that God has turned away. John went to prison; Jesus went to the cross. Faithfulness will not create sanctuary from life's trouble; but it will bring redemption even in the face of the hardest situations.

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE DAILY BIBLE READINGS EMAILS**

**Subscribe now at [www.villagepres.org/subscribe](http://www.villagepres.org/subscribe). Emails arrive first thing in the morning  
Monday through Saturday.**

# TIDINGS OF JOY

3 & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

Village Church on Mission

Free Admission!

**Today!**

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20



*The* SNOW GLOBES *with Barnaby Bright*

VILLAGE CHURCH ON MISSION | RETIRING OFFERING FOR THE WASH PROJECT AND AVENUE OF LIFE

## TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

**19th ANNUAL TIDINGS OF JOY CONCERTS TODAY** - Performances are at 3 & 6 p.m. in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Admission is free. A love offering will benefit Grace United Community Ministries. The concert will feature the 3rd Annual Tidings of Joy Children's Chorus, the Alegría Young Adult Choir, the Village Choir, the Village Chamber Choir and the Tidings of Joy Orchestra. Please arrive early. Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. A huge thanks to the music ministry team and the many wonderful musicians who have been preparing for today's concerts.

**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 Presbyterian (USA) family of faith that is inclusive, caring and welcoming of all people. We are one church worshipping at two campuses. Our Overland Park Campus is located at 14895 Antioch Road. If you would like a tour of Village Church on Mission, contact Cindy Wilcox at [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2331.

**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

**SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES** – Four ongoing adult classes learn and grow together 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. Classroom discussions range from studying the New Testament to exploring the ancient biblical world to deciding how Christians live faithfully given today's complex challenges. For more information, talk with a Discover Village guide at our north and south entrances.

### UPCOMING VILLAGE U CLASS:

**JESUS CHRIST IS BORN! THE MIRACLE OF INCARNATION** – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, in Rooms 232 & 233. In the weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas, we will explore the doctrine of the incarnation and how the early church struggled to form this key tenet of Christian faith. We will examine the controversies around the immaculate conception and ultimately realize how the birth of Jesus transforms our lives today. Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 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. **THIRD FLOOR K-6th grade**—The Lighthouse meets on the third floor. Registration and grade specific room assignments are posted outside Room 307. Room information is also posted outside Room 207.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Visit our link to register your child—[bit.ly/vpcchildren](http://bit.ly/vpcchildren)

**MORNING STARS** – NO MORNING STARS THIS WEEK! To register your child for Morning Stars, visit [bit.ly/vpcchildren](http://bit.ly/vpcchildren).

**FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAYS** – All children are invited to participate in worship on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5. Child care is available for newborns through children 3 years old. NO LIGHTHOUSE (formerly Kids' Kingdom and Preschool Sunday school) or Morning Stars scheduled due to the Christmas holiday.

**DIAPERS IN DECEMBER** – Children & Family Ministry is once again collecting disposable diapers throughout the month of December to benefit the Food Pantry. The greatest need is of Newborn and Size 1 infant diapers and Size Large/XL Adult diapers. Drop off your diapers under the Hat and Mitten trees at the south entrance or in the Welcome Center. There is also a crib outside the Second Floor Children's Library for diaper donations.

**BAPTISMS and NEW BABIES** – The first baptisms of 2020 are scheduled for Jan. 19 and March 15. 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](mailto:kate.ruecker@villagepres.org).

**VILLAGE ON MISSION PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – Enrollment for the 2020-21 school year at Village on Mission Preschool begins in January. Contact Preschool Director Sarah McKee with questions at 913-671-2338 or [sarah.mckee@villagepres.org](mailto:sarah.mckee@villagepres.org). Current VOM Preschool families enroll beginning Tuesday, Jan. 21; current KDO families and Village Church members enroll beginning Thursday, Jan. 23; former VOM Preschool families enroll beginning Friday, Jan. 24. Enrollment opens to the community at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27.

## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

**WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNERS** – We are on break until Jan. 8. Look for the menus on [villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners).

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

**A WORLD CRISIS IN HUMAN SECURITY–CLIMATE CHANGE** – Dr. Chris King and Dr. Rick Randolph will discuss climate change and its effects on world peace and human health. Climate change since 1880 has been caused by human activity producing a buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The impacts on life are dire resulting in unprecedented species extinctions. Humanity is not exempt from this threat. 7-9 p.m. tomorrow, Dec. 16, in Rooms 126-127 at Village on Mission.

## MISSION

**THE FOOD PANTRY** – Christmas is coming quickly, but the Food Pantry's clients are still baking and cooking. The Pantry is requesting baking items-spices, cake mixes, sugar, flour, salt and pepper, cooking oil, etc. Small Christmas decorations are being requested-the clients love to look over the table and pick out ornaments and other Christmas decor. Winter coats and clothing are needed, Bibles and devotional books have been requested.

**DECORATE THE VILLAGE TREES WITH DIAPERS AND HATS AND MITTENS** – From now until Dec. 24, come put hats and mittens on our trees and diapers (all sizes welcome including adult large and XL) under our trees to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. You will find the trees located at the south entrance to the church and in the Welcome Center. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or [deborah.white@villagepres.org](mailto:deborah.white@villagepres.org).

**JOY OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING (DEC. 22)** provides support to current and retired church workers in need (50%) and to students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color as well as leadership development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (50%). The Christmas Project offering helps local social service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs (100%). Green envelopes for this offering will be in the hymnal slots in the pew in front of you.

## PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

**MEMORIAL GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – You can provide comfort and give an incredible gift to grieving families when they have lost a loved one by becoming a memorial guild volunteer. The church could use many more guild members. Members assist with ushering for a memorial service or serving as a host at a memorial reception and serve as their schedules permit. To find out specifics or to volunteer, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

**GROWING THROUGH GRIEF STARTS IN JANUARY** – So many thoughts and emotions accompany grief. The Pastoral Care & Counseling Department offers a five-week series called Growing through Grief, to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The next session is every Wednesday at 4:45 p.m. Jan. 15-Feb. 12 in Room 124. This The series is offered at no cost and is open to all. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**WOMEN WITH SPIRIT BOOK BRUNCH** – Join Women with Spirit for their annual Book Brunch from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, in the Small Dining Room at Village in Mission. Your payment of \$7 will serve as your official RSVP. Email [shelbykrumm@yahoo.com](mailto:shelbykrumm@yahoo.com) for payment details. Due to Chef Emily's food preparation, your payment must be received by Friday, Jan. 3. Simply wrap one of your favorite books (new or used) to swap for another's good read. Come laugh, chat, chew and share!

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

**CLASSY CHRISTMAS PARTY** – 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at Gram & Dun. All 20s and 30s, get in here. This Christmas we're celebrating you at one of our favorite KC spots! Wear something classy. Come for dinner, games, the best wine and people in town, and all the Christmas vibes. RSVP required. [VillagePresYA.org/calendar/classy](http://VillagePresYA.org/calendar/classy).

## 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](http://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)** – does not meet this week due to the schedule for finals. We will return at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 9.

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION OPEN** – You can now register for Confirmation, which begins in January 2020. More information and registration can be found at [villagepresyouth.org/confirmation](http://villagepresyouth.org/confirmation), or email [madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org](mailto:madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org).

**SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATIONS OPEN** – Registration is now open for the Middle School Mission Trip, High School Montreat, and High School Boundary Waters Trip! Visit [villagepresyouth.org/forms](http://villagepresyouth.org/forms) to sign up, or email [madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org](mailto:madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org).

## Winter Weather Advisory

If the weather forecast is to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission will be cancelled.

## Subscribe to Village Pres Sermon Podcasts

Village Church sermon podcasts are now available on Apple Podcasts (iTunes), Google Play, Spotify and Stitcher. They're listed as "Village Pres Sermons." Never miss a sermon. Subscribe to get new sermons as they become available and share them with your friends.



## Subscribe to Receive Rev. Tom Are's Weekly eNote



Sign up to receive Rev. Tom Are's Weekly eNote each Friday as he shares details about the Sunday sermon message and more.

You may also sign up to receive the Village Church on Mission Weekly eNews with highlights of what's happening at our Mission Campus.

Visit [www.villagepres.org/subscribe](http://www.villagepres.org/subscribe) to select your email preferences.

## We're so grateful for your Commitment and Generosity.

Because of you and your annual commitment, Village Church can continue its work in the image of God. We thank all of you who have sent in your 2019 pledge and ask those of you who haven't, to make your pledge now. We need your commitment to make sure we have the resources to continue to minister to all God's children!

Commitment cards can be found in the narthex and at both the north and south entrances of the church. You can also go online, [villagepres.org/giving](http://villagepres.org/giving) and then click on Continue to Commitment Form. If you need help or have any questions about your commitment, please call Molly at 913-671-2325.



## ADVENT SERMON SERIES

### I Won't Be Home for Christmas

Dec. 1-24

Advent is a season of waiting. The church is always in Advent, because we are always waiting on what God will do next, although it is only this time of year that we mark that posture of expectation. Why are we always waiting? Because we aren't home yet. We, nor the world itself, are as God intends us to be. So, as a people who are always "on the way," we continue the journey toward home. This series will rehearse some of the expressions of waiting (which can be another word for hope) that is part of this long tradition.

Dec. 1	The Old Homeplace
Dec. 8	No One Escapes Disappointment
<b>Dec. 15</b>	<b>The End of Trouble</b>
Dec. 22	On the Road to Mary's House
Dec. 24	Look Who's Home!

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## MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

## MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist ❖ Will Breytspreek, director of music  
Emily Berns, director of food services ❖ Laura Davis, director of marketing and communications  
Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick, site pastor of Village on Antioch ❖ Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care  
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  
Robert Rumold, director of information technology ❖ 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, pastor of pastoral care  
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

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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/online](http://villagepres.org/online).*

*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.*