



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 22, 2019 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The story reveals that Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Both of them were pregnant and both of them were surprised. Anyone who has had a child knows that it changes your life. The news can be good enough to cause anyone to sing. Mary sings, not because this child changes her life, but because this child changes everyone's life.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

- Prelude *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (8 a.m.)
arr. David Angerman
Ding, Dong! Merrily on High (9:30, 11 a.m.)
arr. Charles Evans; Village Brass
- Words of Welcome Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
- Lighting the Candle of Love Judy & Bob Bliss (8 a.m.)
Joan & Mick McHugh, Julie & Brad Beets, Anna & Michael Lewis (9:30 a.m.)
Dianne & Scott Stanley (11 a.m.)
- Call to Worship

We gather in this place to remember God's promises:

**that the broken will be mended,
and the grieving will know joy again,
and the sinful will be turned around and made right.**

We lean into these promises,
sometimes with strong faith,
sometimes with big questions,
but always with hope.

**God will be faithful,
so, our hope will not disappoint us.**

- Response from Hymn, No. 79, v. 2

**Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty 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. 119

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

**God of light and life,
Our prayer this week is anything but simple:
to see the good in one another,
to live as if peace is possible,
to choose joy even in the dark of night,
and to trust love in every circumstance.
This is our hope, a hope that we receive from You. (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

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

Angels' Carol
by John Rutter; Village Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Tucker (8 a.m.); Sandy Wells (9:30 a.m.); Elizabeth McKell (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-56 (pg. 932)

Sermon

On the Road to Mary's House

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 140 (v. 1, Soloist; v. 2-4, Congregation)

Once in Royal David's City
IRBY

Offertory

Une flambeau, Jeanette, Isabella! (8 a.m.)
arr. Christopher Uehlein

Ave Maria (9:30, 11 a.m.)
by Franz Biebl; Village Brass

*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. 123 (v. 1-4)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
CAROL

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

*Postlude

Angels From the Realms of Glory (8 a.m.)
arr. Edwin C. Johnson
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow (9:30, 11 a.m.)
arr. Charles Evans; Village Brass

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

A LOOK TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY. . .

Next week we will consider the story of Zechariah from a different perspective. What might this curious story say to us after Christmas, and as we close the year?

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

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 22, 2019)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Zach Walker. 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. 23

Psalm 80:1-7

Christmas is just around the corner, and this psalm reflects an attitude calling for the coming of God: "Let Your face shine, that we may be saved." Give thanks in this season, and pray a prayer to God asking that we might still see the face of Christ, that we may be saved.

Tuesday, Dec 24

Titus 3:4-7

What does it mean to be heirs according to the hope? Living our lives in response to hope sounds great on paper, but in real life it can be difficult. On this day of all days, what hope are you living toward in your life? Make a list of some ways in which living toward that hope will meet difficulty.

Wednesday, Dec 25

Matthew 1:18-25

Today is a busy day. I love Matthew's account of the birth because it seems to pass by so quickly! There are dreams and expectations, and then suddenly it is upon them! Christmas is no different for us. How can we live in the moment on this day, and how can we do so in ways that honor Jesus?

Thursday, Dec 26

Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds in the fields came to visit him. Let's be honest – not the most honored of houseguests, which is, of course, kind of the point. The person of Jesus often draws suspicious characters. Are you and I any different? And how might that help us to see others, knowing we all have a place with Christ?

Friday, Dec 27

Psalm 98

This psalm encourages us to make a joyful noise. It is a challenge to each of us to make such a noise in a daily response to who God is, and demonstrate grace, mercy, and joy to others in our lives.

Saturday, Dec 28

Hebrews 1:8-12

God is steadfast and God remains. There is comfort in God's reliability. Yet we often live our lives as though we can rely on very little beyond ourselves. What are some ways you can rely on someone else in your life? What is a way you can rely more on God?

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE DAILY BIBLE READINGS EMAILS

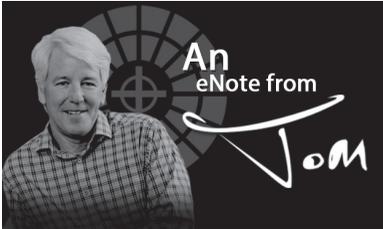
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Monday through Saturday.**

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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 to select your email preferences.



Spring 2020 Village U Classes

Registration opens Jan. 6 for church members

Jan. 13 for the community

Look for the course catalog by Dec. 31 at
villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

JOY OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING TODAY 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.

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.

THE GATHERING – Every Sunday at 5 p.m., join us for an alternative style of worship in Friendship Hall with music by Becky and Nathan Bliss and the same preaching as morning worship. To see more and listen in, check out VPCTheGathering.org.

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 worshiping 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 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.

VILLAGE U COMMUNITY CLASSES – The Spring 2020 Village U course catalog will be posted online on Dec. 31. Our curriculum offers over 60 courses encompassing a variety of learning opportunities from art and leisure to Christian Life to health & wellness and literature. Registration for church members opens Jan. 6. Registration for the community opens Jan. 13. Visit villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes for more information.

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN welcomes all women to engage in lively, challenging study and conversation focused on holding the Bible and theology side-by-side with our lives. Beginning Jan. 3, the group will read and discuss "Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the 21st Century" by Marcus Borg. The class meets from 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays in Room 126. Contact Rev. Diane Quaintance at 913-850-8647 for more information.

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
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 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 and children up to 3 years old. No Lighthouse (formerly Kids' Kingdom and Preschool Sunday school) or Morning Stars scheduled due to the Christmas holiday.

DIAPERS IN DECEMBER – We are reaching the final days of December! Last call to drop off disposable diapers under the Hat and Mitten trees at the South Entrance or in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping the Food Pantry collect these necessary items for local families!

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.

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. 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.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Christmas will soon be here and starting on Christmas Eve the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet will be closed until Jan. 2. The mission at the Pantry and Closet has been a success in 2019 because of your continuing generous support. The staff, volunteers and clients of the Pantry and Closet wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and send out a big THANK YOU for your donations!

DECORATE THE VILLAGE TREES WITH DIAPERS AND HATS AND MITTENS – From Dec. 6 to 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

VILLAGE VOICES ALUMNI – are invited to sing with Village Voices at 11 p.m service on Christmas Eve. Warm up at 10:15 p.m. Contact Matthew with questions at matthew.shepard@villagepres.org

AMERICAN WILD ENSEMBLE: HAWAII PREVIEW – 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. The American Wild Ensemble brings a bit of tropical sunshine to the middle of winter with a program of new works by Takuma Itoh, Tonia Ko, Michael-Thomas Foumai and Byron Yasui, all inspired by their personal connections to Hawaiian wildlife, geography and traditions. American Wild Ensemble is premiering four newly composed works for our septet (flute, clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello and percussion) inspired by endemic Hawaiian wildlife by composers with deep personal ties to Hawaii and interested in protecting its environment. Admission is free.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

IF YOU ARE GRIEVING... The Pastoral Care Department is here to offer support and comfort when grief is hard to bear. Growing through Grief is one way we can help—this five-week class is open to all. The first session in 2020 is every Wednesday at 4:45 p.m. Jan. 15-Feb. 12 in Room 124. This There is no cost but registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or 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 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.

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – Merry Christmas! Join us in the new year. 7 p.m. Thursday nights beginning Jan. 23.

YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT – Feb. 28-March 1. This winter, we retreat together! Travel with us to a cabin near Table Rock Lake for a weekend of renewal. More information and sign up at VillagePresYA.org/retreat.

YOUTH MINISTRY

PROGRAMS ON BREAK! – All Youth programs are on winter break and will resume Jan. 6. We hope to see you then! Visit villagepresyouth.org for details about all our weekly programs and special events.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION OPEN – The Confirmation Class is open to all students in 9th grade or older if they have not yet taken the class. More information and registration can be found at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation, or email 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 to sign up, or email 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.

We're so grateful for your Commitment and Generosity

Have you completed your commitment card and sent it in? If not, please do so today. You can also go online villagepres.org/Giving and then click on Continue to Commitment Form, complete and click send.

Remember, through your contribution we are able to continue our works and spread God's love through our devotion to Ministry and Mission.

Thank you so very much!



Gifts of Stock and Securities

At year end, many of you gift through a transfer of stocks and securities. It is very helpful to know about stock transfers in advance, and to know how to credit the gift. We have an account set up to receive these transfers. For this information and to share with us your plan to transfer stock, please call Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325 or Bob Sperry at 913-671-2365.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

I Won't Be Home for Christmas

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
Dec. 15	The End of Trouble
Dec. 22	On the Road to Mary's House
Dec. 24	Look Who's Home!

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

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.

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.