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## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 29, 2019 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The story of Zechariah is familiar in the weeks before Christmas, so what might it offer after? This time of year often brings reflection with it: what the past months have meant to us and what the lasting effects will be. It is good to remember. But how are we to do that well?

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*  
arr. Aaron Shows

Words of Welcome

Rev. Zach Walker

Call to Worship

Rev. Sally Wright

From the darkness of our night, God has brought salvation.

**God's love is a love that never ceases.**

The Light of the world has come:

**Christ is born, bringing good news for all people.**

Hope in Christ is a hope that cannot be quenched.

**Gather us up, O God.**

**In Your grace we are saved.**

\*Hymn, No. 116

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*  
VENITE ADOREMUS

\*Prayer of Confession

**God of surprising love,**

**We come before You exhausted from all that we deem important,  
neglecting to wonder what You deem important.**

**We are easily distracted and forget who You call us to be.**

**You always remember us, even though we often forget You.**

**Forgive us, God.**

**Renew our trust in You.**

**Bind our will to Yours.**

**Give us peace and strength.**

**Help us remember that Your promises will never lead us astray,  
and grant us the grace that leads us home to 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

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:11-13, 18-22 (pg.931)

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-64 (pg.932)

Sermon

*The Lord Remembers... And?*

Rev. Zach Walker

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn, No. 315

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*  
NEW DIMENSIONS

Offertory

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*  
arr. Robert A. Hobby

\*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

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

(At the indication of the pastor, we will all be invited to partake of the bread together, giving visible expression to the unity we share as Christ's body.

You are invited to partake of the cup as it is served to you.)

Prayer of Response

\*Hymn, No. 136 (v. 1,2)

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GOTELL IT

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn,  
Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

\*Postlude

*Joy to the World!*

by Charles-Marie Widor and David Angerman

*\*All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

## A LOOK TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY. . .

Wise ones came from the East, following the light of a star that led them to the Christ child. On Epiphany Sunday we celebrate God revealing Jesus to the Magi, and to all of us, as the Light of the World. The Magi offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but what else did they bring? What might we bring?

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### 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.**

## THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 30, 2019)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Sally Wright 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. 30**

**Luke 1:68-79**

Zechariah, a Temple priest, recounts the ways God redeems God's people including the ways that the Christ child will prepare the way, teach knowledge about salvation and forgive the sins of the people. Look up hymn #109 "Blest Be The God of Israel." In what ways does the hymn echo the scriptures? In what ways does the hymn differ from the scripture text?

### **Tuesday, Dec. 31**

**Luke 2:6-20**

This familiar passage in Luke shows part of the story that we typically tell on Christmas: the angles and the shepherds (not the Kings, we find them in Matthew 2.) Look up hymn #128, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." I love to ponder on the juxtaposition between the lowliness of the shepherds and the infant to the exalted status of angles and the Christ. I wonder if this echos the juxtaposition of humanity with God and the extraordinariness that God's would come to our level. What do you notice among the text and the hymn?

### **Wednesday, Jan. 1**

**Luke 2:22-39**

Just as every Jewish first born son was dedicated at the Temple, so too was Jesus. In this passage, we read Simeon singing God's blessings by allowing Simeon to see the Messiah child. An African American spiritual based upon this text is hymn #126 "Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child." Find the Mariah Carey version on Youtube.com. What is your experience listening? I can't help but dance. What about you?

### **Thursday, Jan. 2**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

Here come the "three kings" of our traditional Christmas narrative. It is a common held understanding among scholars that these three people were closer to three astrologers or scholars of their day rather than three king of 1st Century CE nation-states. Although I am confident, "We Three Astrologers of Orient Are" has a much different ring than our traditional carol. Open up to hymn #151 "We Three King of Orient Are" and consider other ways that the scripture and text differ and the ways in which they are similar.

### **Friday, Jan. 3**

**Psalms 98**

I am so tied to the "Joy to the World" being about Christ at Christmas that I am hardly even able to associate it with the text that inspired it. Perhaps it is the distinction between the Psalm not explicitly being about Jesus and the hymn being all about Jesus. Or perhaps it is my whole life singing this Christmas carol and not considering which text it was based on. Perhaps your eyes and ears can separate the Christmas from hymn #134 and consider it more closely based upon Psalm 98.

### **Saturday, Jan. 4**

**Psalms 100**

Let us end this week with a Psalm of Thanksgiving. Look back upon your Advent and Christmas seasons. For what do you give thanks? In what ways have you seen Christ present these seasons? Listen to hymn # 155 "Raise of Song of Gladness." What would your three line song of praise to God be for the past 4 weeks?

**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.**



FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

## 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](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes)

All-Church Winter

# BOWLING

*Event*

2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 | Ward Parkway Lanes

Cost: \$5 a person (includes shoes!)

RSVP to [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org)



## 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.

**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](http://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](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.

**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](http://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

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

**TODAY IS FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY** – No Lighthouse (both Elementary and Preschool) today due to Christmas break.

**MORNING STARS** – No Morning Stars today due to Christmas break.

**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).

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** – Throughout January, children and families are encouraged to bring cans of soup to Kids' Kingdom and Preschool Sunday School. This mission project shows kids they can make a positive difference in the world.



**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](http://villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners).

## MISSION

**THE FOOD PANTRY** – The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet will be closed through Jan. 2. When you make your New Year's Resolutions, the Pantry hopes one is to bring one food item with you to church with each visit! In January, the requests from the Pantry are for canned chicken and tuna. The Closet is asking for winter coats and fiction books - western, sci-fi, mysteries, etc.

**VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES** – On Friday, Jan. 10, Village will cook for and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need volunteers from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to serve and clean up. Cookie donations can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9. If you can help, sign up at [bit.ly/Cross-Linessignup](http://bit.ly/Cross-Linessignup).

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**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.

**SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL JAN. 9** – Join us from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at Village on Mission for a recital with tenor Jonathan Pilkington. This Atlanta-based tenor's recent engagements include solos in Verdi's "Requiem," Mendelssohn's "Elijah," and Elliott Carter's "The Defense of Corinth at Avery Fisher Hall." Admission is free.

## 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).

**GRACE, CAREGIVING AND GRIEF** – Christine Sanders is the speaker for the first Faith and Grief lunch in the new year. Christine will share her story of life placing her in the arms of grace when she least expected it. Join us at noon Tuesday, Jan. 7, in Friendship Hall. Lunch and discussion around tables follows Christine's reflection. The monthly Faith and Grief lunch offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen and pray together.

## 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** – Happy New Year! 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](http://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](http://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](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).

### Annual Congregational Meeting/Dinner

This year an annual meeting will take place at the Mission Campus and the Antioch Campus. You are welcome to attend the meeting at either location. Rev. Tom Are will provide a review of 2019 and plans for 2020. The Session will present the budget for 2020.

**Mission Campus** – The Annual Meeting follows dinner in Friendship Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Seating is limited. If you plan to attend, please advise Marsha Hansen no later than Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 913-671-2341 or [marsha.hansen@villagepres.org](mailto:marsha.hansen@villagepres.org).

**Antioch Campus** – The Annual Meeting begins with dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4. If you plan to attend, please advise Laura Patton no later than Monday, Jan. 27, at 913-681-8180 or [laura.patton@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.patton@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](http://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.

## SERMONS

**Dec. 29 The Lord Remembers... And? - Rev. Zach Walker**

Jan. 5 The Fourth Gift of the Magi - Rev. Melanie Hardison preaching

### **Sermon Series: Who Do People Say That I Am?**

The birth of Jesus comes with many claims regarding his identity. Who is this child? The Angelic choir called him the messiah. Gabriel called him God's son. Some preferred the name Immanuel. All this and more to describe the child of manger straw. But how do we describe Jesus now? Jesus asked his own followers, "Who do you say that I am?" There's not one answer to that question. Oh, it's possible to answer it by quoting the creeds "his only son, our Lord." But a survey of the Gospel writers reveals that each gospel writer speaks of Jesus differently. Over the next few weeks, we will listen to each Gospel writer's response to the question, "Who do you say that I am?" We will end the series reflecting on how our understanding of who Jesus is influences our understanding of who we are to be.

Jan. 12 Mark: The Man in the Wilderness  
Jan. 19 Matthew: The Teacher  
Jan. 26 Luke: The One From the Future  
Feb. 2 John: The Man of the Hour  
Feb. 9 Acts: Repeating Jesus

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## MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

## MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist ❖ Will Breytspraak, 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.*