



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 12, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his followers, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Perfection is hardly a realistic goal in life. Verses like this one have caused some interpreters to assume that Jesus is not presenting us with teaching he actually intends the church to follow, but merely aspirational instruction to inform our daily choices. But, what if Jesus is serious?

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Fantasia and Allegro
by Johann Ludwig Krebs

Introit (11 a.m.)

This Is the Day
by Mark Burrows; Morning Stars Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker (8, 9:30 a.m.)
Rev. Jenny McDevitt (11 a.m.)

We gather under words that instruct us:

**Love the Lord, your God.
Honor no other gods but this one.
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.**

We gather under words that challenge us:

**Welcome the stranger.
Love your enemy.
Pray for those who persecute you.**

We gather under words that encourage us:

**Peace, be still.
Do not be afraid.
Be of good cheer.**

We gather under words of truth:

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

*Hymn, No. 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
TRENTHAM

*Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, come close to us,
for "perfect" is such a heavy word.
It weighs down our hearts
and it strangles our hope.
Too often, we strive for perfection in ourselves
and we expect it from others.
All of this distracts us from seeing the world as you see it.**

We set ourselves up for disappointment.

Forgive us, God, when our search for perfect

means we fail to notice the good, for Good News all around us. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

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

*Passing of the Peace

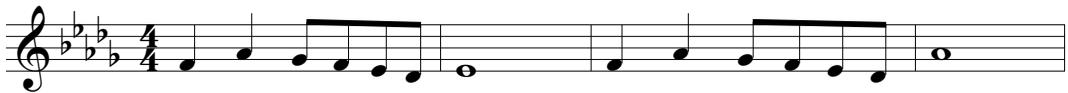
Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters

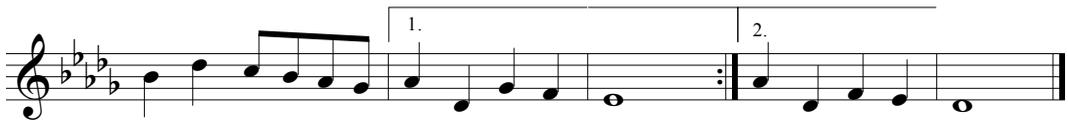
Heritage Committee

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer



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



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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

How Can I Keep From Singing?

music: Eric Nelson; Alegría (9:30 a.m.)

The Light of God's Love

music: Mark Burrows; Morning Stars (11 a.m.)

Prayer for Illumination

Sandy Linson (8 a.m.)

Kevin Hennessy (9:30 a.m.)

Bill Nulton (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:43-48 (pg.881)

Sermon

"Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect." Intimidated Yet?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 612

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

Offertory

The Call of Wisdom

music: Will Todd; Village Choir

*Response

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No.697 (st. 1,2,3,6)

Take My Life
HENDON

*Benediction

*Response

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only all for thee.**

*Postlude

Allegro assai
by Johann Ludwig Krebs

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of February 17, 2017)

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

Monday, Feb. 13

Genesis 2:7, John 20:21-22 – *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* #289

In the Hebrew, the word for breath here is not the common *ruach*, but *neshamah* which is the very act of God breathing life into humanity. Jesus accomplishes this same act in John's resurrection account by breathing new life through the Holy Spirit on his disciples. This is so we can love what God loves, and do what God would do.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 – *Take, O Take Me as I Am* #698

God's "Yes" to us in Jesus Christ, is more than enough reason to make "Amen" as our response. This hymn is best known for its origins from the Iona Community, an ancient Christian community off of the coast of Scotland. Today, Iona is known to be a "thin place" where heaven and earth meet. It has become a center of ecumenism in worship, a place of spiritual healing and a hope-land of reconciliation and social justice.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

James 1:2-4 – *How Can I Keep from Singing* #821

It is possible that Robert Lowry had this passage on his heart when he penned this hymn. When we face the trials of "earth's lamentations" consider singing an endless song of joy. This song is about attitude. When the world offers us nothing but trouble and uncertainties let us sing songs of the new creation we're becoming, by making our focus on God our rock who gives us songs in the night.

Thursday, Feb. 16

Psalms 150 – *We Praise You, O God* #612

The last five psalms are all songs of praise, thanksgiving and adoration. I was surprised to find this hymn we sing today next to another one of my favorites, *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*. Both of them share their histories from a place where my family and I share a history, the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, a church home we love who is celebrating its 250th birthday this year. As Village Church also celebrates a birthday, we wish both families of faith our collective hearts today.

Friday, Feb. 17

Matthew 11:29-30, 16:24-25 – *Take My Life* #697

This is the second hymn today that emphasizes the word "take." Christ's call for discipleship is to "take" on his yoke and learn, or "take" up his cross and follow. When something is offered it must be received, and in our own receiving we offer what we have for the purposes of God – take our life, our hands, our voice, our treasure, our will and our love. What is God asking you to take today?

Saturday, Feb. 18

Matthew 28:16-20 – *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* #298

When the world tells us that there is nothing but dangers and we must have dominion and forceful superiority over each other, Jesus gives us instructions to have the power of compassion. Discipleship is a life intended for each other, an alternative community of inclusiveness and justice. And we are not intended to keep that for ourselves, but to spread it throughout all of creation remembering that Christ is with us "always, to the end of the age."

VISITING
SCHOLAR



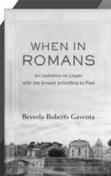
Dr. Beverly Gaventa

Reopening the Letters of Paul

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24

Reception and book signing follow the program.

9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25



*Tickets are available online at villagepres.org and
click Connect, Adults, then Visiting Scholar*



VILLAGE PRES YOUTH

CHILI COOKOFF

FREE ENTRY
for those who
ENTER A CHILI
(traditional, spicy,
vegetarian, or other)

6-8 p.m. SUNDAY, FEB. 26 - FRIENDSHIP HALL

Tickets are on sale in
FRIENDSHIP HALL
\$10 per person
(\$35 max per family)

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

DRMP VALENTINE GIFTS OF CHOCOLATE & COFFEE - Today the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church is offering Santo Domingo Coffee and Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars in Friendship Hall. Proceeds benefit DRMP Child Health Promotion, an empowering program to help children living in poor sugar cane communities of the DR have healthier lives and brighter futures. For a \$10 donation, you may receive two dark chocolate bars in flavors of your choice or a 1 lb. bag of Dominican coffee.

COME TO THE TAIZÉ TONIGHT – Need a moment of peace and quiet? Wishing to receive communion? Come at 6:30 p.m. tonight to Taizé worship at the VCCFDC at 9900 Mission Road. Experience worship filled with song, scripture, communion, and moments of silence and contemplation.

KC WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT TONIGHT - The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 7 p.m. today in the Village Church Sanctuary. The theme of this concert is "Songs of the Earth and Sea." The concert will feature an exciting piece entitled *Of Sailors and Whales – Five Scenes from Moby Dick*, with Rev. Tom Are, Jr. narrating passages from the famous novel. The program will also include a piece called *Clash* composed and directed by Ryan Main.

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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

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

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

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Upcoming Village U classes include:

FEBRUARY COMPUTER TECH NIGHTS - Tech nights address specific questions regarding Word, Excel, and e-mail using a MICROSOFT WINDOWS computer. Feel free to bring your laptop or tablet. Desktop computers will also be available. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 15 & 22. Room 316.

SOUTHERN GOTHIC REVISITED: FAULKNER, O'CONNOR, PERCY, & WELTY - This semester, we are going to continue our exploration of William Faulkner with *Absalom, Absalom!* We will explore other Southern Gothic works, namely, Flannery O'Connor's short stories, Walker Percy's *The Moviegoer*, and Eudora Welty's *The Optimist's Daughter*. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, now-May 11. Room 232. Taught by Kelly Fast and Michael Sanem.

BREAKFAST AND BIBLE WITH YOUR BUDDIES - Join Rev. Tom Are, Jr. for a morning Bible study. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast, and Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from Scripture. There will be time for discussion as well. So, invite a friend and join the fellowship Tuesday mornings. To make a reservation for breakfast, contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Cost: \$6. Child care is not available. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, now-April 11. Room 228.

GROWING AT VILLAGE: SHIFTING FROM A CULTURE OF HOSPITALITY TO INVITATION - Church growth specialists agree that a crucial factor in attracting new persons to a congregation is hospitality. But waiting to greet those who come to us still puts us in a largely passive role. This course will begin to shift our emphasis from passively greeting people who come to us to actively inviting persons to join us as followers of Jesus Christ. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now-Feb. 22. Rooms 132 & 133. Taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka and Cindy Wilcox.

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

WOMEN OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT - The first woman to be appointed to the United Supreme Court was Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981, 190 years after the court was organized in 1790. Since Associate Justice O'Connor, three other women have joined this exclusive group: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. Participants in this course will explore each of these remarkable women and what they have brought and continue to bring to the work of the highest court in the land. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. now-Feb. 22. Room 230. Taught by Marlene Katz.

BOOK CLUB - Join us for an interesting book discussion while your children enjoy child care. Our spring selections include: Feb. 24 – *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi; March 24 – *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith; and May 12 – *The Light of the World, A Memoir* by Elizabeth Alexander. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18. Room 206. Led by Nicki Johnston.

INTERMEDIATE COMPUTER AND INTERNET - This class allows students with basic knowledge of computers to improve their skills in Microsoft Word and the internet. With the assistance of teachers and teacher assistants (chimes), students will explore topics including: inserting pictures into documents; using margins, indents and tabs. 1–2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 21- March 7. Room 316.

GAME NIGHT - Are you looking for a fun night out? Come to Game Night! Bring your favorite board game or play one provided. Come learn a new game, and meet new friends. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 23, March 30 & April 27. Room 233. Hosted by Kyle & Sandra Stephens.

SUPER SATURDAY HANDWORKS & E-WORKS - You will see everything from crocheting, to recipe organizing, to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Room 132. Child care is only available from 9:30 a.m.-noon.

INFANT, CHILD & ADULT CPR BASICS-DAYTIME - Join us for this instructor-led course that will teach students critical skills needed to respond and to manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac emergency in the first few minutes until emergency services arrive. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. Room 132. Taught by Peggy Tingle. Additional course materials fee: \$12/person.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes:

THE ANCIENT PRESENT FUTURE CHURCH - A new class led by Dr. Rodger Nishioka, is meeting now through April 30 (except Easter). The class will meet for twelve Sunday mornings to study the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. The Acts of the Apostles is the story of the new movement of followers of Jesus that eventually became the Church. Together, we will discover how the ancient church has shaped our present church and what this all means for the future church! 10:45-11:45 a.m. Rooms 126-127.

VILLAGE FORUM SUNDAY CLASS - Have you ever thought of the Apostle Paul as a woman nursing her infant children? The apostle uses this metaphor for himself in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica. In preparation for Dr. Beverly Gaventa, our 2017 Visiting Scholar, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will lead two sessions of the Village Forum class today and Feb. 19 based on her book, *Our Mother Saint Paul*. We will examine the maternal imagery that the Apostle Paul uses and discuss why he would choose this and what it meant for the early church and more importantly, what it might mean for us today. 9:30 a.m. in Room 126.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER FEB. 15 – Valentine's Day dinner—beef pot roast, roasted potatoes & root veggies, strawberry shortcake. \$7 for full buffet, \$6 for salad bar and dessert. Salad bar starts serving at 5:15 p.m. followed by the hot food bar from 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$3-children ages 3-10. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are required by noon on the Monday preceding the Wednesday Night Dinner you wish to attend. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners to make a reservation.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VILLAGE CHURCH! To celebrate the 68th birthday of Village Church tomorrow, the Heritage Committee invites you to stop by tables in the Welcome Center and Friendship Hall to view scenes and mementos from our earlier life together. We are also excited to announce that digital recordings of sermons by our founding pastor, Dr. Bob Meneilly, are now available at https://soundcloud.com/villagepres_heritage.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Canned vegetables and empty plastic water bottles with caps are the requests from the Food Pantry. The need is for vegetables of all sorts, but we do have access to corn, peas and green beans. Please think of spinach, yams, beets, refried beans, etc. The Clothes Closet needs shoes, boots and good quality of socks in all sizes. Thank you for all your donations that keep the clients fed and warm!

ARTS IN PRISON INMATE POETRY READING – Join us for the second annual Arts in Prison Inmate Poetry Reading at The Johnson County Library, 9875 W. 87th St. in Overland Park at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. Contact Village Church member Arlin Buyert at 913-909-2915 or email arlin85@att.net for more information.

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

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP has started a regular electronic newsletter highlighting the ministry's activities, successes and upcoming events. If you would like to receive this mailing, contact drmp.info@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BUY YOUR TICKET NOW FOR 2017 VISITING SCHOLAR – Dr. Beverly Roberts Gaventa, distinguished professor, author and scholar of New Testament studies, will be “Reopening the Letters of Paul” on Feb. 24-25 at Village Church. Tickets are available in Friendship Hall between worship services now through Feb. 19. Tickets for Friday only or Saturday only are \$15; or combined, \$25. Come, accept Dr. Gaventa’s invitation to linger with Paul. Book sales and book signing, plus delicious cookies.

MISSION SEWING needs donations of large pieces of fabric, at least one yard (mostly cotton and cotton blends ... no fancy fabrics, please). We also accept yarn. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. every Tuesday. Come and go at your convenience, and lunch is at noon. Sack lunch or purchase lunch at The Cup. Not a sewer? Maybe you would like to stuff pillows or press fabric. In 2016 we sent out 8,632 items and clocked 11,179 hours. Contact Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 for more information.

WOMEN OF WISDOM (WOW) invites all ladies to join them on Tuesday, Feb. 21, for a noon lunch at Hereford House in Town Center in Leawood (5001 Town Center Dr.) We look forward to an enjoyable lunch and warm fellowship. RSVP by Sunday, Feb. 19, to Diane Lee, 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

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

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

CHILI COOK OFF TICKETS ON SALE IN FRIENDSHIP HALL – This year’s Cook Off is 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 and supports our youth mission trips. Tickets are \$10/person or \$35/family (entry is free if you enter a chili!). We hope you can join us for this fun church event for a great cause!



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

SERMON SERIES

I Know That's What It Says, but That's Not What It Means!

The Bible is a complicated book, written over hundreds of years in various context and diverse circumstances. And then, it is read 2,000 years later in a world and culture the Biblical writers could not have imagined. Given all of that, it's easy to misunderstand the Bible. When it is misunderstood the good news can often sound like bad news for some folks. When it is misunderstood it can often make the Bible more difficult to trust. In this sermon series, we will take just a few passages that have often been confusing and see if there is a life-giving word for us.

- Jan. 1 The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
- Jan. 8 "Women Keep Silent?" This Doesn't Sound Like Good News
- Jan. 15 Family Matters and the Cost of Following Jesus
- Jan. 22 Divorce – Why the Church Has Read This Text to the Wrong People
- Jan. 29 Is There a Devil?
- Feb. 5 "Jesus is the Only Way to Salvation." This is Not About You. This is About God.
- Feb. 12 "Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect." Intimidated Yet?**
- Feb. 19 The Only Safe Place for Hatred
- Feb. 26 Pray Without Ceasing

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

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

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

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

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

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