



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 28, 2016 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Jesus' ministry always happens in the wilderness. John the baptizer is always the forerunner who appears proclaiming repentance. John will always be arrested. Jesus will always say, "Believe in the good news." These are not just road signs in the story, but lamp posts to the truth of doing ministry. The good news continues to be proclaimed in the wilderness. The world we live in can become arresting at times, but in the wilderness God comes near. The treasure within these earthen vessels of ours is the light that shines in broken places.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision (8 a.m.)

arr. Dwight D. Gunthrie

Rondeau Fanfare (9:30 a.m.)

by Jean-Joseph Mouret; Village Ringers

(11 a.m.)

Morning Bells

Call to Worship

Rev. Hallie Hottle

We are here because we long for guidance and peace.

We are drawn in by the beauty of God's presence.

Darkness may surround us, but light flickers through our brokenness.

We are here because we often stumble and fall.

On the journey we scraped our knees

and bruised our egos, but on the path grace offers new life.

We are here because there are seasons of comfort and challenge.

There is a pattern to things.

A time for keeping and for losing,

for pulling down and for building up,

things to lay down and things to take up.

*Hymn, No. 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you

with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,

help us amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be,

so that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. (Silent prayer)

*Response

Amen

A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The musical score for 'Amen' is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, featuring a series of chords and a final melodic line. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and a few moving lines.

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters: Stephen Ministry

Michael Waterford

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your
Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The musical score for 'Call to Prayer' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three systems, each with a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, featuring a series of chords and a final melodic line. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and a few moving lines.

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

I Believe

music: Mark A. Miller; Music Ministry Interns (8 a.m.); More Love Chorale (9:30 a.m.)

The Gift of Love

music: Hal Hopson; words: 1 Cor. 13 (paraphrase); Village Voices and Morning Stars (11 a.m.)

Prayer for Illumination

Diann Markley (8 a.m.)

Fred Logan (9:30 a.m.)

Bill Nulton (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15 (pg. 910)

Sermon

Some Things Never Change...Until They Do

Rev. Jenny McDevitt (8 a.m.)

Rev. Len Carrell (9:30, 11 a.m.)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

Offertory

Creation Will Be at Peace

music: Anna Laura Page; words: Isaiah 11 (paraphrase); The Village Choir

*Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 749

Come! Live in the Light!
WE ARE CALLED

*Benediction

*Choral Amen

*Postlude

We Are Called (8 a.m.)
arr. Jamie Cyrus
Come Christians, Join to Sing (9:30 a.m.)
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; Village Ringers
(11 a.m.)
Morning Bells

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

Stephen Ministers have been nurturing our congregation since 1995. Pray that their gifts will bless anyone needing a compassionate listener during a difficult time. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister, join us for our "Tell Me More" classes in May. If you wish to meet with a caring person on a weekly basis, call Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of February 29, 2016)

The following are daily Bible readings 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 and our mission. Pray for God's world.

Monday, Feb. 29

Isaiah 55:3

Isaiah writes, "Listen, so that you may live." Good empathic and reflective listening is a life-affirming practice in a caring ministry. Our ears can often be ready when our hearts are not. Listening for God, and to each other, can be an art form in itself. And good artists make plenty of rough sketches before a masterpiece is completed. But they are never afraid of making a messy go of it at first.

Tuesday, March 1

Psalms 63:1-8

In the wilderness, God offers provisions. In the dryness of a weary land, our souls thirst for God. In our seeking a God who will do the finding, we stumble upon a sanctuary of steadfast love. When we lay in stillness in the solitude of our beds at night, God holds us in our prayers and meditations. God meets us in the most unusually vacant places.

Wednesday, March 2

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Our wilderness moments in life will strike us down at times and remind us that we are only human. We often hear that God does not give us anything we do not have the strength for, but sometimes our strength can wear thin. But the gift of these words is that God will provide us endurance and a way through our struggles.

Thursday, March 3

Luke 13:1-9

This is one of those strange stories in the gospel that begs us to ask, "What does Jesus have against fig trees?" The parable of the barren fig tree nudges us to consider the importance of yet another year. A day, a month, a year can feel full and filled with accomplishments. Others can feel desolate and unproductive. The gardener in this story pleads for yet another year to reap fruit. How do we treat each day, month, or year as a gift from God?

Friday, March 4

Job 42:1-6

After all that Job had suffered through, he ends with humility and wonder. During this time of Lent we are encouraged to take inventory of our lives and our faith. Job realizes that it is okay to question, but God does not always offer quick counsel or judgment. Job considers his own experience by saying, "I did not always know what I was asking," because the things of God are "too wonderful for me." Job listened to God by the "hearing of his ear, but now my eye sees." Have you ever seen the guiding presence of God?

Saturday, March 5

Psalms 130

Lent is similar to Advent because we wait. We wait for the word of God with hope. We wait for what we cannot see. "More than those who watch for the morning," the Psalmist sings, "More than those who watch for the morning." It is repeated to emphasize the urgency to watch and wait. Jesus tells his disciples the same thing in the garden before his arrest. Keep awake and pray!



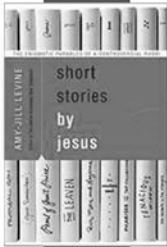
Visiting Scholar Amy-Jill Levine PhD.

New Testament Professor &
Influential Author Presents

“Jesus the Jewish Storyteller: Hearing the Parables Anew”

March 4 & 5
At Village Church

Tickets available at villagepres.org



Amy-Jill Levine is a self-described “Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt” and an author of many articles, books and essays including *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*.

7-9 p.m. Friday, March 4

Session 1: Parables, Pearls and Prodigals

Reception and book signing follow the program. Books available for purchase courtesy of Rainy Day Books.

9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 5

Session 2: Tax Collectors, Priests, Levites and Samaritans

Session 3: Vineyard Owners and Day Laborers

Visiting Scholar is sponsored by Presbyterian Women of Village Presbyterian Church.

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

WORSHIP BAGS are available for children to use as tools in worship. At the end of the worship service, please return the bags to the baskets located in the narthex.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING RETREAT – Tickets go on sale today for the April 22–23 PW Spring Retreat at Heartland Presbyterian Retreat Center. We welcome Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin and her mother, Rev. Margaret Peery, as our guest speakers. You may purchase tickets in Friendship Hall between services today and next Sunday, March 6. Online registration is also available on the Presbyterian Women page at villagepres.org.

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 9:30 a.m and 11 a.m.

KIDS' KINGDOM CHURCH SCHOOL - Parents may check in their elementary (K-5) aged students on the 3rd floor. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CLUB V6 (6TH GRADE) - Fun and relevant discussions for today's 'tweens. 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 302.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

PARIS JOURNEYS - "NOT YOUR ORDINARY TRAVELOGUE!" - Village Forum Sunday morning class welcomes Elizabeth and Jay McKell who recently returned from Paris where Jay served as the visiting pastor at The American Church in Paris. The focus of his ministry was on Marriage Blessing Services but they experienced much more: a diverse and unique congregation, French cooking, art galleries and museums, shopping and the terrorist attacks on Nov. 13. Week one we will talk about marriage there and here and the worshipping community that is now misnamed The American Church. Week two we will tour the city and talk about the November attacks as well as the Middle Eastern refugee crisis. 9:30 a.m. March 13 and 20 in Rooms 126/127.

UPCOMING VILLAGE U CLASSES:

A Practical Guide to Gardens and Gardening in the Kansas City Area - Our instructor, Cynthia Gillis, is a landscape architect who has 27 years of garden making under her belt (and fingernails). This course will provide ideas on how to improve – not redo – your current ornamental gardens. Learn how to deal with shade, Kansas City soil and weather, those pesky bunnies, and suggest plants based on these factors. Child care is available with advance reservation. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in Room 232.

Date Nights - Join us for a Date Night once a month with your spouse. We begin with a 30-minute discussion each evening on a topic to help you strengthen your marriage, and then couples are free to leave on their own for some time away for dinner and discussion. The topics will cover family of origin, toolbox for marriage and growth planning. Taught by Clint and Kim Carter. 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, in Room 232.

Day Trip to Toy and Miniature Museum - The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures educates, inspires and delights adults and children through its collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. The museum boasts the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures, as well as one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys. Cost: \$20 plus lunch. Coordinated by Georgia Klein. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3.

Village Talk - Rev. Brian Ellison, will speak with Rev. Dr. Wallace Hartsfield II, pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, a leader in the Harmony organization for a number of years and on staff at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Join us from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Chapel.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES 9:30 A.M. - The **Faith Journey** class is led by Judy Matthewson. The book study is Marcus Borg's *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* where he surveys the most significant conversations and personalities that shaped his life, and presents his convictions about the faith and its role in the 21st century. Room 230.

The **Cloud of Witnesses** class welcomes Rev. Dwight Tawney who is teaching *Return of the Exiles*. Israel's war with the Babylonian Empire in 587 BC led to the destruction of Jerusalem, the burning of the Jewish Temple, and the forced exile of thousands of citizens. The tragedy could have spelled the end of the nation, but resourceful leaders, such as Ezra and Nehemiah provided a new vision for the nation's life. This class will explore the rebuilding of Israel during the tumultuous Second Temple Period. Now through March 20 in Room 232.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MARCH 2 - Shepherd's pie beef and vegetarian, salad bar, dessert. Price is \$7 for full buffet, \$6 for salad bar, dessert & drink, \$3-children ages 3-10, ages 2 & under are free. Reservations no later than this evening. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org under Connect>Adult>Wednesday Dinners to make a reservation.

AGE SPECIFIC DINNER FOR 40s/50s - Village is offering a fun dinner opportunity for people in their 40s & 50s (couples and singles)! We have reservations at Red Snapper Bistro at 8430 Ward Parkway, at 6 p.m. Friday, March 11. Each person is responsible for their own tab. The reservation is under "Village Church Group." Space is limited. RSVP to cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331.

DINNER AT STROUD'S IN FAIRWAY FOR AGE 70s & UP - You are invited to meet at the famous Stroud's Restaurant in Fairway, to enjoy a home-style dinner menu of American Classics with other Village Church friends. We'll gather at the restaurant, located on the corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and 55th St., for an early dinner at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. We'll go "Dutch" (each person pays for their meal). Space is limited, so RSVP to Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.

TWO NEW U.S. TOURS FOR VILLAGE CHURCH - "Beautiful North America Tours: National Parks and Places of History and Beauty"-Sedona and the Grand Canyon National Park: Oct. 9-14, 2016. Feel the excitement of New York City at Christmas time: Dec. 1-4, 2016. Join us for an information meeting at 4 p.m. today in Room 132. Contact Lisa Ball at Lisa@LisaBallTravelDesign.com for more information.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY - We at the Food Pantry are always grateful for your generous support to keep this mission successful. We continue to request pasta. Our clients love all types and shapes of pasta - whole wheat or white. The Clothes Closet still needs household items including cooking utensils, pans, dishes, glasses, decorative items and kitchen linens. Thank you again for your many wonderful donations!

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES - Friday, March 11, Village will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. 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 10. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL - Classical saxophonist, Megan Sebastian, and pianist, Amy (Ludwig) Pennington, will perform Vivaldi's *Concerto in F Major for Oboe and Piano*, Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 4*, Maurice's *Tableaux de Provence, Suite for Saxophone and Piano* and excerpts from *The Carnival of Venice*. The 30-minute recital is at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the Village Sanctuary. Admission is free.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF BEGINS IN APRIL - Grief is a journey, one that is different for each person. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, consider attending the Growing Through Grief class. This five-week class is designed to help discover God's healing presence during a difficult time of life. There is no cost but registration is required. The next series of classes will be from 6:30-7:45 p.m. April 6-May 4 every Wednesday. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

BETTER COMMUNICATION MEANS BETTER RELATIONSHIPS – A new couples' communication class will start on Tuesday, April 5, and be held for four Tuesdays, ending on April 26. Class will be from 6-8 p.m. in Room 230. Couples, married or not, will improve their talking and listening skills, learn collaborative conflict resolution, anger management and more. Dr. Dave Ehman will facilitate this program which has had excellent results for more than 700,000 couples from around the world. Dinner is provided, and child care is available. Registration is limited to 10 couples and is due by Tuesday, March 22. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB? – The Career Center now offers a job search program that is sent to you directly through email. Created by Dave Flanders and Mary Dunn, these four classes supply information and ideas to use in your search. To receive this program, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

EASTER LILY MEMORIALS - You may purchase a potted lily in memory or honor of a loved one by sending a check for \$10 payable to Village Church (please include the memorial/honoree name with the check). Send your check to the church, Attn: Janice, with "Easter Memorial" referenced on both the envelope and the check. Your information must be received by noon on Friday, March 18, to be included in the April 5 *Good News* listing of donors.

SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY

CONCEALED CARRY ON KANSAS COLLEGE CAMPUSES—WHAT DOES IT MEAN? - Join us at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6, in Rooms 126/127. Loren Stanton, president of the NE Kansas Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, is our speaker. He will provide information regarding the Kansas law allowing concealed carry of guns in all Kansas state and municipal buildings. College campuses have an exemption, which ends July 2017, when the concealed carry of handguns will be allowed inside state university buildings. Free and open to the community. Contact Trevor Fletcher at 913-530-3864 or tfletcher32@hotmail.com for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW LUNCH AT HOULIHAN'S - Ladies, wear your St. Patrick's green and join WOW (Women of Wisdom) for a spring lunch at noon on Thursday, March 17. We'll gather at Houlihan's, Town Center, 4900 W. 119th. A casual restaurant, Houlihan's specializes in American food, including homemade soups, salads, sandwiches and lunch entrees. All ladies are invited. RSVP by March 16 to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, 913-432-4321.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Youth Loft at 9:30 a.m. Room 333.

CHEER H.S. YOUTH GROUP - Meets tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft.

ODD MONDAYS BIBLE STUDY – This is a new high school girls' bible study that meets on odd dated Mondays (e.g., March 7, March 21) from 3-4 p.m. in the Upper Room. Join us for this great time together!

TWOSDAYS - Middle schoolers join us Tuesdays after school from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft, Room 333.

GPS M.S. YOUTH GROUP – Meets this Wednesday evening from 6:30-8 p.m. In the Youth Loft.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2017 VILLAGE CHURCH OFFICERS -The Village Church Nominating Committee needs your help in matching abilities with responsibilities. They are seeking recommendations for elders, elder trustees and deacons for 2017. Nominations will be accepted starting this Friday, March 4. Submit the form on our website: www.villagepres.org under the "About" section and "Officers" page. The link will be at the top of the Officers page. Printed forms will also be available at the Receptionist Desk. Forms must be received by Sunday, March 20, 2016.

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY...

At the Heart of Giving...

Your gift to Village Church during the annual commitment campaign is so important in continuing the work we do here at Village Church. Thank you!

Would you like to help one of our mission efforts do even more?

We have asked Mission Sewing what would help them extend their donations to area hospitals, cancer centers, hospice homes and other area agencies.

They welcomed the offer and have put together a Wish List.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase an item or two from this Wish List and bring with you on **Sunday, March 6**, to Friendship Hall and drop off at the Village Commitment table.

Mission Sewing Wish List

Gingher scissors 7"

Soft & Crafty Polyester fiber fill - 5 or 10 lb bulk box

Satin ribbon - 1/4" in pastel colors

Bernat Softee Baby yarn - white, pink, baby blue

Lion Brand, Pound of Love yarn - pink, white or blue

Coats brand thread - white, black, green, blues

Rotary cutter sharpener - 45 & 60 ml blades

Fabric - cotton, flannel (No satin)

Serger

Monetary donations also accepted

Thank you for your generosity! Your gift will help Mission Sewing construct more items to help those who suffer with an illness.

Items include: walker bags, eyeglass cases, peanut-shaped pillows, lap robes for all ages, blankets for newborns and pajamas for children. Knitters create newborn caps and cancer hats among other projects.



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

SERMON SERIES

Treasure in Clay Jars

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth that the Gospel Ministry is a “treasure we hold in clay jars.” This is a metaphor that resonates because we all know how fragile faith can be. We know how fragile Christians can be. One of the wonders of grace is that God continues to be found among the weak and fragile of faith. God’s treasure is carried in clay jars, meaning God’s beauty can show up in our brokenness. It’s good news. We hope you will join us to hear it.

Feb. 14	All Are Ministers
Feb. 21	When the Church Gets it Wrong
Feb. 28	Some Things Never Change...Until They Do
March 6	I Believe, Help My Unbelief
March 13	The Brokenness of Jesus
March 20	When the Nation is Broken
March 27	Easter Isn’t Over

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Mark Ball, director of music

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

Marjean Lindquist, director of child care ❖ Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care ❖ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music

Rev. Diane Quaintance, interim director of adult educational ministry

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

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

Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services is available at villagepres.org. Click the Quick Link “Live Service Broadcasts.”

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.