



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 1, 2020 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

This first Sunday of Lent we are in a season of reflection on our own discipleship. The focus of these next six Sundays will be a Christian understanding of human freedom. We will consider the attributes of our freedom and some threats to freedom, particularly in our time and place.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

You are invited to use the prelude time to pray or meditate as you prepare yourself to be transformed by the service of worship.

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd</i> by John Rutter; Village Choir; Bob Abbott and Anne Sneller, oboe
Words of Welcome	Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
Introit (11 a.m.)	<i>Come and Sing Together</i> traditional Zulu parting song; Morning Stars Angel Choir
Call to Worship	Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Surely, it is God who saves us.

We come in trust and are not afraid.

**For the Lord is our stronghold and sure defense,
and God will be our Savior.**

*Hymn, No. 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days
ST. FLAVIAN

*Prayer of Confession

Living God,

We lift our voices in prayer because

**the world is a mess,
and sometimes we are a mess.**

**There is too much that is beyond our capacity to repair,
so, we call on You to set us free from all that binds us
to small dreams,
to fearful thoughts,
to past injuries.**

You alone are our hope. (Silent prayer)

*Sung Response

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response (from Hymn, No. 71)

**Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.**

Anthem (11 a.m.)

I'm Gonna Sing!

arr. Kimberly Ingram and Joe Milton; Morning Stars Prelude Choir

*Passing of the Peace

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Anthem (9:30 a.m.)

Three English Dances: II. Drive the Cold Winter Away

arr. David Stone; The Village Players

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Carol Tucker (8 a.m.)

Elder Grace Strongman (9:30 a.m.)

Elder Susan Cope (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Mark 5:1-20 (pg. 914)

Sermon

Freed From What? Freed For What?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

BEACH SPRING

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured, Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured, Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

Offertory

Schmücke dich (8, 11 a.m.)

setting Aaron David Miller

Hymn for Orchestra (9:30 a.m.)

by J.S. Bach; Village Players

*Response

**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

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. 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

*Benediction

*Benediction Response (from Hymn, No. 541)

**God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

*Postlude

Canzonetta, BuxWV 171 (8, 11 a.m.)

by Dietrich Buxtehude

Finale (9:30 a.m.)

by J.S. Bach; Village Players

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

A LOOK TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY . . .

"If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread." This is how Satan tempted Jesus. Bread is not a bad thing and later Jesus will turn a few loaves of bread into a feast for 5,000. But still, there is something about Satan's question that Jesus simply will not accept. Next Sunday, we will see what we can learn from this old story.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of March 2, 2020)

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, March 2

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

This stark call from the prophet Joel is the starting words of Lenten season. It can come across as harsh, or could potentially come across as a God searching for and finding God's people: Return to God who is gracious. God wants us to draw near. How can we use the next 40 days to return to God and reflect upon our relationship with God? We can pass through dark places and God is still calling us back.

Tuesday, March 3

Psalms 51:1-17

This First Sunday of Lent is traditionally a time when the church invites us to reflect upon ourselves and our relationship with God. As you read this Psalm, consider what you think about the notion of sin or what it means when we do wrong. Are there things for which you wish to ask God for forgiveness? Or things for which you wish to apologize? If so, take a moment and tell those to God.

Wednesday, March 4

Matthew 6:5-6

When reflecting upon our own relationship with God, we must consider why we pray. Some consider praying to be asking God for a list of things. Some consider praying to be aligning our will with God's will. Others consider praying to be spending time with God. If you don't know how to pray, simply pray, "God show me how to pray." God is great at showing us how to draw closer.

Thursday, March 5

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Fall of Adam—many artists have depicted this scene. Take a moment to search this term in your search engine and explore these images. Which ones are you drawn to, which ones do you detest? As you look at these images, consider your own beliefs about The Fall. How does this help you to articulate your own relationship with God? Or is this story a stumbling block in your relationship with God?

Friday, March 6

Matthew 4:1-11

The church practices Lent every year based upon this story. Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days, so we take 40 days to reflect upon our relationship with God. Traditionally, Lent is a time for fasting. Many Christians refrain from eating meat on Fridays. Some in our tradition will fast from something for Lent. Others will add a spiritual practice, like lectio divina, for the season of Lent. Either way, it is about doing something to devote additional time to God. Do you participate in a type of fasting during Lent? If so, I would love to hear about it.

Saturday, March 7

Psalm 121

As we continue to reflect upon our relationship with God, the first line in this Psalm asks a question that is core to our human experience: Where will my help come from? The very next line: My help comes from the Lord. Consider committing these first two verses to memory. When you are in times of trouble you will be able to pull up these two verses and remember that it is God who is our help.

MENEILLY VISITING SCHOLAR EVENT

IMPOLITE DINNER CONVERSATION:

The Politics of Christ and the Church

With Rev. Drs. Margaret Aymer and Carolyn Helsel

March 6-7

**Village Church
on Mission**

Register & get more info at
villagepres.org/visiting-scholar

FREE



VILLAGE CHURCH ON MISSION

KIDS SUMMER PROGRAMS

Creations by Kids, Kids Day Out, VBS, Music & Drama Camp

**Online registration opens at 8 a.m.
Monday, March 23**

For church members, current Preschool and
Kids Day Out families

Opens at 8 a.m. Friday, March 27

For community members

More info at villagepres.org/summercamps



TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

VISIT DISCOVER VILLAGE DURING LENT – Lent can be a time when we undertake a new study, serve in a new way, or make a new connection in the Body of Christ to prepare for Easter. Stop by the Discover Village kiosk located at the north Welcome Center or in Friendship Hall this Lenten period and explore your opportunities to Discover Your Village.

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 worshipping at two campuses. Our Overland Park Campus is located at 14895 Antioch Road. If you would like a tour of Village Church on Mission, contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org 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.

TECH TALK WITH TONY – Tony Liu will discuss how to make your Smart TV “smarter.” View free over-the-air TV programs, things to consider when viewing streaming services at home or on the road, web browsing on your Smart TV and how to use it with your Smart devices. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in Room 316.

VILLAGE U COMMUNITY CLASSES – Visit villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes for more information.

THE QUR'AN AND THE BIBLE – The Qur'an, God's revelation to Muslims through the prophet Muhammed, shares many similarities with the Bible. Biago Mazza, pastoral associate at St. Sabina Parish in Belton, Missouri, will lead this class in exploring the stories and persons that appear in both texts and discussing their similarities and differences. Register online under Village U. 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays, March 2-30, in Room 126.

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS – In “Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week,” the Vanderbilt professor and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine helps us explore the last days of Jesus' life. Come see her each week on video and learn what this noted Jewish New Testament scholar wants us to contemplate this Lent. Discussion on each video clip will be led by Dr. Gus Breytspraak. Register online under Village U. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 4-April 8, in Room 127.

SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE – ILLUMINATING WORD, ENRICHING FAITH – The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau will lead this class in exploring the themes and art of the Saint John's Bible, a handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey. Select passages of illuminated scripture will serve as windows through which to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be baptized in Christ. Register online under Village U. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 4-25, in Rooms 126-127.

THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE ON DISPLAY AT VILLAGE ON MISSION - 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 14, in Friendship Hall. Come see the stunning, hand-illuminated seven-volume set on loan from Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri. Docents from the cathedral will be available to help show and interpret the Bible. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see this epic work of art!

BEGINNER SPREADSHEETS – This class explores how to identify the components of a spreadsheet, entering data into a spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data, and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will create a simple spreadsheet during the class to reinforce learning. Register online under Village U. 1-2:30 p.m. or 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in Room 316. For more information, email deecouch@kc.rr.com.

INCOME DISPARITY – Charles “Chick” Keller will lead this class in examining income disparity. While the upper 10% of Americans are getting richer, the lower 50% are struggling. Lower taxes help the rich, while inflating healthcare, education and child care costs leave the lower half with less hope of breaking out from their financial woes. How did we get here, and how do we fix it? Register online under Village U. 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, March 16, in Room 232.

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 ages meets on the first floor. Registration and age specific room assignments are posted outside Room 107. **THIRD FLOOR K-6th grade** – Elementary ages meets on the third floor. Registration and grade specific room assignments are posted outside Room 307. Room information is also posted outside Room 207.

NEW THIS YEAR, WE ARE DOING 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.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING – Summer brochures are here! Music & Drama Camp, VBS, Creations by Kids camps and Kids Day Out are all back this summer. Online registration for all summer programs at Village on Mission begins at 8 a.m. March 23 for church members, current preschool and KDO families. Online registration begins March 27 for the community. Sign up at villagepres.org/summercamps.

BAPTISMS and NEW BABIES – The upcoming baptisms are May 10 and July 19. 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.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNERS – Take a night off from cooking! Our next dinner is March 4. The menu is beer battered cod, red beans & rice (vegetarian), chicken tenders, cole slaw. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m. and hot food bar is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$7 for the full meal and \$6 for salad bar & dessert only. Kids age 10 and under eat free. RSVP by noon tomorrow to liz.middleton@villagepres.org or 913-671-2359.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY is looking for a strong volunteer to do grocery carry out and to sort food donations from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. If interested, call 913-671-2314 and leave a detailed message. The Clothes Closet finds that the cold weather increases the requests for warm blankets, sheets and pillowcases and pillows. Please check and see if you have some you are not using. Thank you.

OUR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MINISTRY – From 9-11 a.m. Sunday, March 8, members of the Village Church Habitat for Humanity Tuesday-Thursday Crew are hosting an information table in Friendship Hall to share information about this vital mission work and answer questions about volunteering. Every year, Village Church provides funds for construction materials for several houses and the crew turns those materials into a home. No construction experience required to volunteer and scheduling is very flexible. Contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at deborah.white@villagepres.org or 913-671-2369 for more information.

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES – Friday, March 13, 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 meal prep and from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to serve and clean up. Cookie donations that can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. Sign up at bit.ly/cross-lines-sign-up-2.

COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS – With the spring thaw comes the Village Community Garden at 99th and Mission Road. Village needs volunteers to help plant, weed, water and harvest during the 2020 growing season. Garden produce is donated to the Village Food Pantry. If you would like to join the community garden team, call Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

KANSAS CITY WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT – The KC Wind Symphony, a proud member of the Village Church Arts Alliance, will be presenting a joint concert with the Mid-America Nazarene University Symphonic Band at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, in the Bell Cultural Events Center on MNU's campus. The concert will feature works by Alfred Reed, Michael Colgrass, Camille Saint-Seans and others. We hope you will join us for this wonderful collaboration!

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

REV. SALLY WRIGHT IS OUR GUEST SPEAKER TUESDAY, MARCH 3 – Join us at noon this Tuesday in Friendship Hall for the monthly Faith and Grief lunch when Rev. Sally Wright shares seven practical ways that can help you with your grief journey. Grief is unique to each person—what worked for your friend might not work for you, and that's okay. Reservations are helpful but not required; go online at faithandgrief.org or contact Linda at linda.alley@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PAINT WITH AMAZING GRACES – Join the Amazing Graces at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, for a "Painting Party" at Jan Feller's art studio at 4000 W. 87th St. in Prairie Village. As Jan leads us, we will create an acrylic painting on canvas, which will be exhibited at Village Church on Mission. Reservations (\$10) will be sold between services beginning today. Contact Martha Tatman with questions at matatman@hotmail.com.

CELEBRATION OF FAITHFUL WOMEN – The inspiring Celebration of Faithful Women begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, at Village on Mission. All Presbyterian women will be celebrated at this special luncheon, and we will honor four Village Church members: Dee Couch, Patty Grossman, Michelle O'Neal and Kelly Thomason. Rev. Sally Wright will give a keynote address about "Divine Scheduling." Be sure this event is on YOUR schedule! Reservations will be taken today and March 8 in Friendship Hall.

PW SPRING RETREAT – This powerful event April 24-25 brings women of all ages together to grow spiritually, connect with new and old friends, and unplug from the chaotic world we live in. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper, will share her understanding of how play and connection are a vital component of our spiritual lives. In addition, small workshops will provide an opportunity to continue the discussion. Reservations will be taken today and March 8 in Friendship Hall.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – 7 p.m. this week at Village Church, Small Dining Room. New Lenten series: Freedom From and For, begins this week! There are so many messages swirling around our lives. Only some of them are helpful. This Lenten season we're taking some time to consider our identities, to "free" ourselves from the things that aren't serving who God wants us to be, and using that freedom to feed our souls. RSVP at VillagePresYA.org/thursdays.

YOUTH MINISTRY

JOIN US FOR ANY OF OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES – All are welcome regardless of previous Village attendance and no sign-up is required. Check villagepresyouth.org for more details.

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:30 a.m. Youth Loft (Room 333) for middle school, Upper Room (319) for high school.

SNL (high school youth group) – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sundays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

LOFTERNOONS (middle school after school program) – 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Youth Loft (Room 333).

GPS (middle school youth group) – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

EARLY TABLE (morning devotional for high schoolers with food) – 7:30-8:15 a.m. Thursdays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333), with rides to school available.

CONFIRMATION meets at 11 a.m. in Rooms 232/233. For a full schedule see villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

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.

LIGHT ETERNAL

DEDICATED TO MARK BALL

3 p.m. Sunday, March 29
Village on Mission Sanctuary

Featuring the Village Choirs & Orchestra, singers from Southminster Presbyterian and soloists

Admission is free. An offering will be taken for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The gift will be given in memory of Mark Ball.

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.

SERMON SERIES

What Freedom Looks Like

Freedom is important and something that we should not take for granted. But what does it mean to be free? There is certainly a political way to answer that question. There is also an economic way to express freedom. But human freedom is first a spiritual category. How does Christianity understand what it means for a person to be free? What would it take for us to live toward freedom in our day?

March 1	Freed From What? Freed For What?
March 8	The Devil Loves Binary
March 15	Rich in All the Wrong Markets
March 22	You Shall Know the Truth, and the Truth...
March 29	Lessons Learned From A Servant
April 5 Palm Sunday	It's My Job
April 12 Easter Sunday	This is Just the Beginning

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

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

Will Breytspraak, director of music ❖ 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

Bob Sperry, interim director of stewardship and endowment ❖ Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations

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.