



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 18, 2018 • 8,930 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

There was a blind man, and Jesus' disciples wanted to know who to blame for his blindness. It is a common question when something goes wrong—who is to blame? It's not always easy to determine where fault lies, but sometimes we can. After we have determined the cause of the blindness, the blind man is still blind. So, perhaps there are other questions we need to ask.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Priere a Notre Dame
by Leon Boellmann

Introit (9:30 a.m.)

God So Loved the World
by John Stainer; Village Choir

Call to Worship

Rev. Hallie Hottle

We want to be here,

because the world is alive with your praise, O God.

We need to be here,

because the world is burdened with heartbreak.

We choose to be here,

because the world's blessing and burden is also in us.

We are called to be here,

because no matter the circumstance, we are your children.

You are our God, and we will sing your praise.

*Hymn, No. 297

In Christ Called to Baptize
ST. DENIO

*Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God,

following Jesus is a struggle, for his way leads to the cross.

When we are faithful, strengthen us.

When we disappoint you, forgive us.

When we fail to know the difference, teach us.

It is our desire to follow in the ways of Christ. (Silent prayer)

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Christ, _____ have
mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy. _____

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Glo-ry to our cre - a - tor, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly
Spir - it: as it was in the_ be - gin-ning,
is_ now, and will_ be for e - ver.
A - men, A - men. A - men.

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer (8 a.m.)

Two systems of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system contains the lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!"

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (8 a.m.)

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Baptismal Response

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;

Born of the Spirit, we are God's children, Joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Prayer for Illumination

Judy Heeter, Elder (8 a.m.)

Katie Hull (9:30 a.m.)

Olivia Ruecker (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-12 (pg.976)

Sermon

Is it Easier if You Know Who to Blame?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 470

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts
LONGING

Offertory

God So Loved the World (8, 11 a.m.)
by John Stainer; Village Choir

Let Us Then with Confidence Draw Near (9:30 a.m.)
by Richard DeLong; Alegría Choir

*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

*Hymn, No. 792

There Is a Balm in Gilead
BALM IN GILEAD

Congregational Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Balm in Gilead
by H.T. Burleigh

*Postlude

Praeludium in C Major
by Johann Pachelbel

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of March 19, 2018)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Tom Are, Jr. 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 19

John 10:1-18

Being dependent on someone can be worrisome. We don't wish to burden our children. We want to carry our weight at work. We seek to be independent and responsible for ourselves. This is good; but limited. We are dependent on God for life and life abundant, for each day and a reason to live it. Such dependence would be worrisome, except God is trustworthy and faithful.

Tuesday, March 20

Mark 9:42-50

This is a hard text to read, if we read it literally. This teaching of Jesus makes it sound like heaven will be a collection of the maimed. We need to note the hyperbole in his words. Jesus is saying that the life he describes is so important you would, as my grandfather used to say, "Give an arm and a leg," to be part of it.

Wednesday, March 21

Mark 10:17-31

This man wants eternal life. He doesn't want life to stop. It may surprise us, but not everyone would have the same prayer. For many, life is so harsh that a promise of life not stopping would be unwelcome news. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus didn't come simply to bring "eternal life." He came to bring the Kingdom of God. That's not simply life that doesn't stop; it is life that is transformed. What do you think needs transformation in your own life or in our world? Pray for that today.

Thursday, March 22

John 12:1-10

There are some things we pay for. There is a time when we first begin to buy things with "our own money." It can teach us to value things more. This text claims that what matters most is not what we buy, but what we give. Think about this: what do you give yourself to?

Friday, March 23

Mark 10:35-45

James and John get a close look at how Jesus turns things upside down. To be on top, we find the bottom; to be great, we serve.

Saturday, March 24

Psalms 23

We began this week with Jesus as a good shepherd. We return to this same promise today. The shepherd is the one who shows care for our lives. Think back on your week: how has God been faithful to you this week?



Village Church is the spot
to be this summer!

Children's Summer Camps Registration

8 a.m.-noon Monday, March 19
for Village Church members, preschool, KDO
and daycare families

8 a.m.-noon Monday, March 26
for community families

Get details about camps and registration
forms at villagepres.org



JOIN US FOR

Brent Isom

AND THE

More Love Chorale

A CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

7 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 23

VILLAGE ON MISSION **SANCTUARY**

ADMISSION IS FREE!

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY – We welcome these newest members into our faith community as we celebrate the baptisms of the following children: **9:30 a.m.:** Joseph Madden Fisher (Taryn and Craig Fisher, parents); Silas Boyd Walker Holladay (Meredith Holladay and Zach Walker, parents) and at **11 a.m.:** Carson Dean Cross (Sara and Chase Cross, parents); Ava Elizabeth Herwig (Emma and Andrew Herwig, parents); Everett Wesley Nower (Alissa and Kevin Nower, parents).

THE ROSE ON THE COMMUNION TABLE reminds us to celebrate and welcome the birth of a new little one among the Village Community: Andrew Christopher Vonnahme was born to Beth and Greg Vonnahme in late January.

KANSAS CITY WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT – Join us at 7 p.m. tonight in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary for this free concert. The program, "Of Gods and Men" will feature selections from Gustav Holst's "The Planets," Morton Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium," as well as music by Boysen, Coleman, Ziek and Mackey.

NEW TO US? Village Presbyterian Church is a family of faith actively shaped by the life of Christ to love one another, provide leadership for the transformation of our communities and serve the world. We are a Presbyterian (USA) family of faith that is inclusive, generous and welcoming of all people.

JOINING VILLAGE CHURCH – Village receives new members every other month at a special Sunday luncheon. The upcoming dates are March 25 and June 10. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for information.

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

AARP 55 ALIVE DRIVING CLASS – 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in Room 232. Class will be taught by veteran instructor, Terry Barker. The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you are an AARP member) per person payable to AARP. To enroll, call Marianne, 913-671-2333.

UNDERSTANDING HOUSING OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO SENIORS – Most of us love our homes and want to stay there. However remaining in our homes may become unsafe or even unaffordable. You owe it to yourself to create a "Plan B," so that when an unforeseen event occurs, you and your family members will know exactly what to do. Presented by The Education Group, an organization of knowledgeable volunteers. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in Rooms 228 and 229.

UPCOMING VILLAGE U CLASSES:

BREAKFAST AND BIBLE WITH YOUR BUDDIES – Join Rev. Tom Are for a Tuesday morning Bible study and a hot breakfast. Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from Scripture. Contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org to make a reservation. Cost: \$6. Child care is not available. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, in Room 228.

"LEAPS AND BOUNDS" SCREENING – "Leaps & Bounds" is a one-woman show produced and performed by Tevin East of the Affording Hope Project. In the title, Leaps refers to leaps of faith and acts of courage that come from deep conviction. Bounds refers to the limits of the earth which are also the limits of humankind. Led by Rev. Jay McKell. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in Room 127.

BEGINNER GOOGLE DOCS – Learn to create documents in the free, web-based environment offered by Google. Topics include basic document creation, text editing and using Google Docs to collaborate with others in real time. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, OR 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 22, in Room 316.

COOKBOOK CLUB – Cookbook Club is a great way to try new things, sample recipes and learn from others. We'll all get the same cookbook, "Slow Cook Modern," by Liana Krissof (buy it or borrow it); and everyone will make one recipe from the book and bring it to share. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in Room 132.

CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH WORKSHOP – We'll share the basics of how our warming climate affects life and health. Keynote speaker: Rick Randolph, MD, medical director of Heart to Heart. 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 24, registration; 9 a.m.-noon Plenary, worship and workshops, in Rooms 126 and 127.

FLORAL ARRANGING – Learn how to create your own fresh floral arrangement to display in your home this spring! Additional class fee: \$35. Taught by Katherine Taylor. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, in Room 133.

INFANT, CHILD AND 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. Additional class fee: \$12. Taught by Peggy Tingle. 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, in Room 132.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes 9:30-10:30 a.m.

FAITH JOURNEY – This class is studying Dr. Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity-Rediscovering a Life of Faith." Borg explores what he calls two paradigms for looking at our faith and how those can work together. Taught by Kathy Ray, in Room 230.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH – This class is studying the significance of Jerusalem, the holiest city for the three Abrahamic faiths of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Taught by the Rev. Dwight Tawney, the class enjoys thoughtful discussions and conversation prompted by this beloved teacher who served as one of the pastors here at Village Church. Room 15.

GROWING TOGETHER – If you are interested in biblically-based lessons that help you increase your impact on others in your life, you should visit this class. You will find a small group exploring the Acts of the Apostles. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre, the group is asking where we are called as apostles and what that even means. Room 124.

VILLAGE FORUM – Building on the work of American theologian Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, our recent Visiting Scholar, we will hear from some of the new voices of theology as they shape how we see God's activity in the world. From Feminist and Womanist theologies to Mujerista and Minjung theologies and Eco-theology and Queer theology, these new voices are expanding our understanding of what it means to be the body of Christ today. Room 126.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

LENT/EASTER INFO: Today – Family Worship Sunday with no Sunday School (child care is available for 3 yrs. and under). **March 25** – Sanctuary Palm Parade: children ages 4 yrs.–6th grade meet in Room 309 by 9:10 a.m. Children up to 3 yrs. (escorted by their parents) are welcome. **April 1** – Easter Family Worship Sunday with no Sunday School (child care is available for 3 yrs. and under).

MORNING STARS CHILDREN'S CHOIRS – Prelude Choir (K-2nd) is in Room 307. Morning Stars Choir (3rd-6th) is in Room 305.

NEW BABIES – Help us welcome new babies! Call 913-671-2350 or email kate.ruecker@villagepres.org.

BAPTISMS – Future baptism dates are May 13 and July 15. An education class is offered for those members new to Village baptism. Call 913-671-2350 or email kate.ruecker@villagepres.org to register.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Our menu for March 21– corned beef and cabbage, buttered new potatoes, baby carrots, vegetarian entree. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. Full meal with salad bar and dessert is \$7. Salad bar and dessert is \$6. Children ages 4-10 are \$3 and children age 3 and under are no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon tomorrow.

VILLAGE GOLF OUTING – Do you like a casual golf outing? Then this is for you! The monthly outings are a four-man scramble format and run April-October. All are invited and you do not need to be a member of Village Church. The first outing is at Deer Creek on Tuesday, April 17, with 8 a.m. tee time. To sign up, contact Brad Steil, 913-469-5683, bradsteil@everestkc.net or Art Newcomer, 913-752-7540, artnewcome@aol.com.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Start your spring closet cleaning and donate those spring and summer items to the Clothes Closet. The Closet will be accepting those items starting in two weeks, beginning April 1. The Food Pantry continues to accept one-pound bags or boxes of all varieties of pasta during March - fettuccine, lasagna, shell macaroni, manicotti, etc. The clients love to choose from a large selection.

ONE GREAT HOUR OFFERING – (March 25, Palm Sunday): Gifts collected are distributed among the following: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) to rebuild communities after natural and human-caused disasters, Self-Development of People (32%) to provide resources to disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) to support initiatives that create sustainable food systems. Blue envelopes for this offering can be found in the hymnal slot on the pew in front of you.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING PLANTING – Join the garden team at 10 a.m. Friday, March 23, (weather permitting) to help plant some of our cooler weather produce. The team meets at the garden located on the Meneilly Center for Mission campus at 9900 Mission Road. Call Jim Porter at 913-634-5880 for more info.

MUSIC MINISTRY

TE DEUM CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENTS “SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS” – 3 p.m. Palm Sunday, March 25, Village on Mission Sanctuary. Te Deum offers a choral reflection for the Lenten season with James MacMillan’s masterpiece depicting the crucified Christ’s final utterances. Tickets are \$15 and available at te-deum.org/concerts or at the door. Te Deum is a member of the Village Church Arts Alliance.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

EASTER LILIES NEED A RIDE! – If you can help deliver a lily or two after the last Easter Sunday service, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org. You’ll be contacted the week before Easter with info.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF BEGINS APRIL 18 – If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, consider coming to this five-week class where you can learn more about the grieving process. 5:30-6:45 p.m. every Wednesday, April 18-May 16, in Room 124. There is no cost but registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH READING PROGRAM – 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 21-April 25, in the Youth Loft. If you’re interested in volunteering or have questions, contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062 for information.

WOW LUNCH AT JOE’S CELLAR – Women of Wisdom (WOW), warmly invites all ladies to lunch at noon on Wednesday, March 21. We’ll dine at Joe’s Cellar, the new cozy restaurant inside the Mission Road Antique Mall, which features authentic Italian dishes, salads, quiches and soup. We hope you will join us at this Prairie Village gem at 4101 West 83rd. RSVP by March 20 to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608.

CELEBRATION OF FAITHFUL WOMEN BRUNCH – 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, in Friendship Hall. Reserve your spot online now at villagepres.org/pw or from 9-11:15 a.m. today in Friendship Hall. **Today is the last day for event reservations.** This year we will be honoring Margaret Dalke, Vicki Graham and Jennifer Sawyer. Rev. Sarah D. Brouwer will speak on "Open Doors, Open Futures."

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT'S FLOWER POWER WITH GREGORY – Join us at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at Gregory's Fine Floral – 8833 Roe Ave. in Prairie Village. The cost is \$5. Due to space restrictions, the first 15 women to send in their \$5 by April 3 are guaranteed a spot. Email shelbykrumm@yahoo.com for additional information. Childcare is available with a reservation.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday nights. In March we are reading about who we believe God to be with the help of Rob Bell's book, "What We Talk About When We Talk About God."

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 SCHOOL (middle school and high school) – 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

SNL (high school youth group) – Will NOT meet tonight due to Spring Break. We will return starting next week (3/25) on Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

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

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

EARLY TABLE (morning devotional for high schoolers with food) – Thursdays, 7:30-8:15 a.m. at Zach's house (5401 W. 77th St., Prairie Village, Kan.) And yes, we give you a ride to school afterward if you need it!

SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! – Sign up for the middle school mission trip, high school Montreat and Boundary Waters adventure. Register and pay for trips online at villagepresyouth.org/form.

Easter Lily Memorials

You may purchase a potted lily in memory of a loved one by sending a check for \$10 to Village Church (include the memorial 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 March 23.

Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday, March 29 – 7 p.m. Village on Mission

Good Friday, March 30 – 7 p.m. Village on Mission & Village on Antioch

Easter Sunday, April 1 - Village on Mission: 8, 9:30 a.m. (two 9:30 services: Rev. Tom Are preaches in the Sanctuary; Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaches in Friendship Hall), 11:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. (The Gathering-Friendship Hall) Village on Antioch: 9:30 a.m. (Easter Egg Hunt follows worship)

There is no Children's Sunday School at Village on Mission Easter morning. Child care will be available for newborns up to 3 years old.

Village on Mission is providing free shuttle bus service Easter morning from 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Buses will pick up at the Blue Moose parking lot at Prairie Village Shopping Center and drop off at the west entrance of Village on Mission.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

When Things Have Gone Wrong

The season of Lent is a slow walk to the cross. On one hand, the cross is shocking. On the other hand, it is expected. Things go wrong in everyone's life. Life is not fair. No one escapes suffering. Power is often used in abusive fashion. The passion of Christ did not eliminate the brokenness in our world, but he did battle it every day. He showed us the healing difference that love can make in a world that always knows pain and disappointment. The life of Christ is not simplistic or Pollyanna, but it is hope when things have gone wrong.

Feb. 25	The Heart Has a History
March 4	Christ on the Frontier; Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick
March 11	When God is in the Room
March 18	Is it Easier if You Know Who to Blame?
March 25	(Palm Sunday) Business as Usual or Not?
March 29	Maundy Thursday
March 30	Good Friday
April 1	Easter

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Will Breytspraak, director of music ❖ Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care
Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick, site pastor of Village on Antioch ❖ Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry
Marjean Lindquist, director of child care ❖ Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration
Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate ❖ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music
Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship and endowments ❖ Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries
Deborah White, director of mission ❖ Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries
Ellen Wootton, interim director of children and family ministry ❖ 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 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, hand it to an usher so it may be recycled.