



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 2, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Jesus had a soft spot for children. We do, too. We love their exuberance, their joy and their innocence. As Jesus said, we need to receive the Kingdom of God as a child would receive it. There is much to learn from children, but on the whole, being told to “act like a child” is a bit counter intuitive. What do you suppose it means to receive the kingdom as a little child?

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father
by Robert A. Hobby

Call to Worship

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

Before a path was chosen
or a word spoken . . .

**Before a war was fought
or a winter passed . . .**

Before a sword was forged
or the seas parted . . .

**Before a wall was built
or an apple bitten . . .**

Before the wine was blessed
or bread broken . . .

**Before people were clothed
or animals roamed . . .**

Before a child was born
or a prayer uttered . . .

There was love.

*Hymn, No. 188

Jesus Loves Me!
JESUS LOVES ME

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, forgive us as we confess:

We play hide and seek with you, often afraid to get too close.

We grumble when asked to share what we have.

We talk over one another.

We do not stand up to bullies.

We push back against those who try to guide us.

We want more than we need.

We get distracted, and do not always complete the tasks given to us.

Remind us how to live, we pray. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters

Children and Family Ministry

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.

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 (9:30 a.m.)

Hashivenu

music: Israeli Folk Song, arr. John Leavitt; Village Voices

Cause us to return, O Lord, to you. And we shall return.

Renew our days as of old.

Prayer for Illumination

Sandy Linson (8 a.m.)

Larry Sneegas (9:30 a.m.)

Pam Hanson (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:13-16 (pg.921)

Sermon

Would You Want To Be a Kid Again?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 175

Seek Ye First
LAFFERTY

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father
arr. Eric Nelson; 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. 774

There Is Now a New Creation
STUTTGART

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Village Choir

*Postlude

Final Fugue from "Praeludium in G"
by Nicholas Bruhns

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning's organ prelude and choral offertory are settings of a nineteenth-century Swedish hymn written by Lina Sandell. Sandell wrote more than 650 hymn texts! (That's more songs than the Beatles wrote, but far fewer than Dolly Parton.) The text assure us that our heavenly creator comforts, protects, and nourishes unceasingly. The theology of this hymn is simple - it's the theology of a child. In complicated times, perhaps we can learn a lot from the simpler faith expressed by our children.

Children of the heavenly Father
safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord His children sever;
unto them His grace He showeth,
and their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of April 3, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Hallie Hottle 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, April 3

Psalm 119:73-80

Psalm 119 is a beautiful thing. It's the longest psalm, and with 176 verses, it's also the longest chapter in the entire Bible. It's a Hebrew "acrostic," which means that the first letter of each line is intentional. The lines of the first stanza all begin with the Hebrew letter "a," the second stanza's lines all begin with "b," and this pattern continues through the entire Hebrew alphabet. Begin your week in this special psalm, and read more if you're able. Take comfort in this word of mercy and love, composed with such intention.

Tuesday, April 4

John 9:18-41

Jesus has done this miraculous thing, healed a man who was blind from birth, and the people can't quite figure it out. The testimony of the previously blind man in verse 25 will sound familiar to you. I find this testimony to be one of the most compelling we have. We want to know the ins and outs of all of life. But in my moments of greatest conviction, I find all I have are words like this. There is much I do not know, but I do know I was blind, and now I see. Have you ever been so convicted that the questions seem to fall away?

Wednesday, April 5

Psalm 27

This psalm begins, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?" It's a bold psalm, and a comforting one in this world where there is much to fear. Rest in this mid-week reminder to wait for the Lord, to not fear no matter what enemies surround you, to confidently tell God to be with you, knowing that God will.

Thursday, April 6

Jeremiah 26:1-6

The "second book" of Jeremiah begins here in chapter 26. Where the first book was more poetic in its style, this second book is more narrative. We see the start of that here, as God instructs the prophet to preach condemnation. It can be helpful to remember that God's people were often the target of the prophet's sermons. Claiming an identity as God's people carries more responsibility than privilege. It's a good reminder.

Friday, April 7

Jeremiah 29:4-7

This is one of my favorite passages in Jeremiah. Whether our exile is a real one like our faith ancestors experienced, or a spiritual one that leaves us feeling like we're in a foreign and unknown place, I think we can find helpful instruction here. "Seek the welfare of the city." Literally, seek the shalom of the place you find yourself. How are you being a seeker of peace this week?

Saturday, April 8

John 11:28-44

We end with the story of Lazarus this week. If you've ever lost someone you love, you know Mary's pain in this story. Her grief expresses both anger and faith. She could not be angry at Jesus for not being there, if she didn't believe he could have changed the outcome of her brother's death. And Jesus response to her faithful anger by doing a remarkable thing, he weeps. Whatever you're grieving, struggling with, angry at this week, I'm finding it helpful to know that Jesus does show up, and that he weeps too. Remember, we're not alone in the hard things.

J. S. BACH

**SAINT
JOHN
PASSION**

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 9, 2017 | 3 P.M.

**VILLAGE CHURCH
SANCTUARY**

PERFORMED IN ENGLISH BY

Village Chamber Choir

Te Deum Chamber Choir

Kansas City Baroque
Consortium

FREE ADMISSION

A Retiring Offering will benefit

Jewish Vocational Service Refugee Services

Holy Week Worship Services

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 13

7 p.m. Good Friday, April 14

8, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. (The Gathering) - Easter Sunday, April 16

We will have two services at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Tom Are will preach in the Sanctuary. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will preach in Friendship Hall.

We will provide 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 the church.

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL TODAY are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Sarah Susan Hitchcock by her family.

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. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Room 302.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

AARP 55 ALIVE DRIVING CLASS will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 6 and 7, in Room 133. \$20 (\$15 if you are an AARP member) per person payable to AARP. Call Marianne, 913-671-2333, to enroll.

Please register for the classes you wish to attend to assist in our planning purposes.

Upcoming Village U classes include:

INFANT, CHILD AND ADULT CPR BASICS-EVENING – Learn 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. 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4. Room 232. Additional course materials fee: \$12/person.

APRIL TECH NIGHTS – Tech nights address specific questions regarding Word, Excel and email using a Microsoft Windows computer. Members of the Computer Ministry are available to provide individual assistance. Bring your laptop or tablet. Desktop computers will also be available. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 5-26. Room 316.

GROWING A VIBRANT, STICKY FAITH IN OUR CHILDREN – Co-led by Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of Children and Family Ministries, and Dr. Rodger Nishioka, director of Adult Educational Ministries, this class will help parents live out their faith with their children in real and expressive ways so that faith in Jesus Christ will stick as they grow older. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 5-26. Rooms 132 and 133.

SEEING IS BELIEVING: EXPLORING MISSION IN THE HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY – Rev. Sally Wright, who serves us and all of the Heartland Presbytery as acting associate executive Presbyter, will help us understand what it means to be a missional congregation. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. April 5-26. Room 127.

HARRY S. TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM DAY TRIP – Join us to experience the eventful and triumphant life of America's 33rd President. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, April 6. Facilitated by Georgia Klein. \$30 per person includes bus transportation, tour and lunch.

BOOK CLUB – Join us for an interesting book discussion while your children enjoy child care. Our last spring selection is *The Light of the World, A Memoir* by Elizabeth Alexander. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 18. Room 206. Led by Nicki Johnston.

BASIC POWERPOINT – This class explores the basic skills necessary to develop a simple presentation using PowerPoint. 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, and 6:30–8 p.m. Thursday, April 20. Room 316. Call Marianne, 913-671-2333, to enroll.

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS—EXPLORING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AND THE SERMON ON THE PLAIN – In these two classes, Rev. Len Carrell will guide a study of the similarities of the two stories and the differences and why they matter. Jesus’ message is a crucial one for his followers then and for us today. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 19 and 26. Room 126.

I DRIVE ELECTRIC. YOU CAN TOO! - Al Pugsley, Village Church ruling elder and recipient of the Environmental Action Committee’s Earth Steward Award, has been driving electric cars for over 10 years. Over that time, he has experienced firsthand the evolution of the electric car and become an advocate for the benefits of electric vehicles. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 25. Room 126.

SPRING ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES meet at 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Check villagepres.org for more details.

THE ANCIENT PRESENT FUTURE CHURCH – Now-April 30 (except Easter), Dr. Rodger Nishioka leads this new adult class. The Acts of the Apostles is the story of the new movement of followers of Jesus that eventually became the Church. 10:45-11:45 a.m. Rooms 126-127.

ART MINISTRY

ARTWORK IN THE BRIDGE GALLERY – Pam Peffer’s paintings are on display in the Bridge gallery (located on the second floor overlooking the courtyard, alongside the Senior Pastor’s office). Please be sure to stop by and enjoy her work.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER, APRIL 5 – Breakfast for dinner—cheese omelets, sausage, biscuits & gravy, pancakes & syrup. Cost: \$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 for children ages 3-10. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are required by noon on the Monday preceding the Wednesday Night Dinner if 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.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Spring clothing and shoes are now being accepted by the Clothes Closest—all sizes, adult and children, clean, sized and gently worn. Time to spring clean those closets—new Easter clothes for you, great hand-me-downs for the clients! The Food Pantry is asking for all varieties of cereal. One box for each five Sundays in April and you’ve provided for five families this month.

ONE GREAT HOUR OFFERING – April 9, Palm Sunday. Gifts collected from the One Great Hour offering are distributed among the following: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) rebuilding communities after natural and human-caused disasters, Self-Development of People (32%) providing resources to disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems. Gray and blue envelopes for this offering are found in the hymnal slot in front of you.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL APRIL 13 – Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, April 13, in the Village Chapel, when harpsichordist Charles Metz will perform three pieces by Jean Philippe Rameau: *Les Tourbillons*, *L'entretien Des Muses* and *Les Niais de Sologne*. The program will also include J.S. Bach's *Italian Concerto*. The recital is free and open to the community.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

250 EASTER LILIES NEED LEGS – Would you help deliver an Easter lily or two? More than 250 Easter lilies will be taken to members who are unable to attend church on Easter. If you can help deliver a lily or two after the last service, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org. You'll be contacted the week before Easter with specific information. Thank you!

FAITH AND GRIEF LUNCH IS THIS TUESDAY – If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, join us for the Faith and Grief lunch from 12-1 p.m. this Tuesday, April 4, in Friendship Hall. Registration is extremely helpful; go online at www.faithandgrief.org. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Linda Alley at 913.671.2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF THIS WEDNESDAY – The next five-week class where you can meet others who are grieving and understand your struggles starts this Wednesday, April 5. Class meets from 5-6:15 p.m. every Wednesday, April 5–May 3, in Room 124. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOMEN OF WISDOM (WOW) eagerly looks forward to a beautiful spring lunch at noon, Thursday, April 20. We'll dine at Seasons 52, at Ward Parkway and Broadway on the Plaza, where the Plaza Easter bunnies will greet us in the courtyard. Carpool, if needed, leaves north entrance of church at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608. All women are cordially invited.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TAIZÉ IN ST. LOUIS – Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29. We'll travel together to meet up with young adults from around our country and monks from Taizé, France who have been working this past year in the St. Louis/Ferguson area for racial reconciliation. It will be a weekend of worship, and community-making in new ways. Sign up at VillagePres.org or by emailing: hallie.hottle@villagepres.org.

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 attend the 9:30 a.m. service together in the balcony.

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!

Thoughts from Village Commitment

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ.”

—Galatians 6:2



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

Creative Spaces

Throughout the past year, we have explored different possibilities for artistic expression in our worship spaces and in the Welcome Center. More hands, hearts and minds are welcome to contribute to this process. If you have a creative streak, or would like to develop one, join us. Contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org.

Easter Lily Memorials

Honor a loved one by purchasing a potted lily. Mail a check for \$10 payable to Village Church (include the memorial/honorary name with the check). Send your check to the church, Attn: Janice Gill with “Easter Memorial” referenced on both the envelope and the check. This must be received by Wednesday, April 12, to be included in the May 3 *Good News* listing of donors.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

The People You Meet Along the Way

Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem. It was a journey on foot and a journey of the heart. A cross awaited him. When you know the end is near your time is precious and you pay attention to the people around you. Jesus spoke with his followers and with a rich man. He noticed children and an impoverished woman. Jesus paid attention to them all. We will pay attention to them as well, and discover that there is a little bit of all of them in us. I suppose that means we are on the journey as well, at least the journey of the heart.

March 5	Let's Go Over This One More Time For James and John
March 12	This Guy Thinks It's All About Him
March 19	Jesus Is Interrupted and Schooled By a Courageous Woman
March 26	He Got Everything Right and Still Missed It By That Much
April 2	Would You Want To Be a Kid Again?
April 9	Do You See That Woman . . . She Looks a Lot Like Jesus
Maundy Thursday	That's Just the Way Of the World
Good Friday	Tenebrae Service
Easter: April 16	The Heart Of the Matter

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.*