



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

May 7, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Today we read about Stephen. He was not an apostle of Jesus, but he was a leader in the early church. Stephen was also the first Christian martyr. Martyr and "witness" (from last week's sermon) are the same word in Greek. It is inspiring to notice that as Stephen faced in his pending death, he responded by telling the story of the faith—of Abraham and Joseph, of Moses and King David. What story would you tell?

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Mit freuden zart
arr. Paul Laubengayer

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

God's story, our story, is told and heard.

Let us have open hearts to hear it.

With every uphill battle we face,

we turn to God for guidance and support.

With this task we are given,

we remain open-minded and open-hearted.

We are a part of God's story;

let us continue to remember it,

to tell it,

and to live it.

*Hymn, No. 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we do not fully understand you.

We don't understand how you do what you do.

We strive to know everything about you,

but often do not realize you are the light to our path.

**When we don't see your light we become selfish in our ways
and lose focus on what matters most to you.**

We don't love our neighbors as ourselves.

We forget that you are still writing your love into this world

and often fail to point others to your story of grace and mercy.

Forgive us, God. Guide us as we journey through the next chapters of our lives.

Help us to see your will,

that we may be a light in the darkness. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

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

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

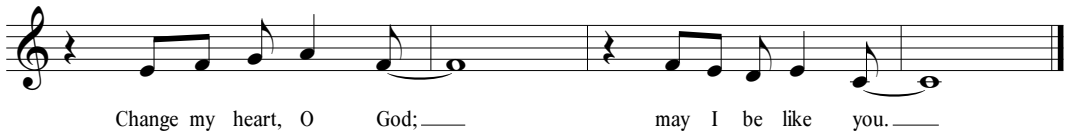
Prayer for Illumination

Jim Borthwick (8 a.m.)
Kathy Lueckert (9:30 a.m.)
Bill Nulton (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Acts 6:8-7:1 (pg.997)

Call to Prayer (8 a.m.)



Welcome of the Conference Class (9:30, 11 a.m.)

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

Dry Bones (9:30 a.m.)
music: Gungor; arr. Kevin Dolan; Village Voices; Amy Jantz, clarinet; Sienna Sun, Violin;
Jenny Hull, Cello; Kevin Dolan, guitar; Zach Walker, drum

God so Loved the World (11 a.m.)
by John Stainer; Alegría

Scripture Reading

Acts 7 Selected Verses

Sermon

Carry This Story With You

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith: from the Confession of 1967

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.**

**His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.
His service to men and women commits the church to work
for every form of human well-being.**

**His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face
of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.**

**His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the
inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful
consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.**

**In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the
church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in
society and of God's victory over all wrong.**

*Hymn, No. 462

I Love to Tell the Story
HANKEY

Offertory

The Strife Is O'er
arr. John Ferguson; 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. 463

How Firm a Foundation
FOUNDATION

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Choral Amen
Village Choir

*Postlude

Tocatta in F, BuxWV 156
by Dieterich Buxtehude

**All who are able may stand*
© A-705103 for all hymns

WORSHIP NOTES

Occasional Reflections on the Elements of Worship

These reflections are written by Village's staff, and it is our hope that knowing a bit more about some of the individual components of the church service may help us to experience more fully the gifts of this time together.

Confirmation

written by Rev. Zach Walker

Confirmation is the process by which adolescents learn more about faith, preparing them for the choice to join the church. The class is first available to 9th graders and meets each Sunday from January through April. In addition to learning about the building blocks of faith, students interact with each other to discuss questions and hear others' thoughts about the topic of the day. It is called "Confirmation" because at the end of the process, students can choose whether they would like to confirm the promises made for them during baptism, promises made by their parents/guardians, but that the students are now old enough to consider and speak for themselves.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of May 8, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by the 2017 Confirmation class 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 and our mission. Pray for God's world.

Monday, May 8

Psalm 140:1-5

In a time of constant conflict, we often turn to an "eye for an eye" approach. We fight fire with fire, and we match the enemy's violence with violence of our own. This passage reminds us that the Lord will protect us from all evil, and it is our duty to stray away from the war and bloodshed that surrounds us.

Tuesday, May 9

Matthew 7:24-27

This verse comes from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus tells the story of building your house on a rock rather than the sand, God is like your foundation. He supports you all your life. The stronger the connection with the Lord, the sturdier foundation you will have.

Wednesday, May 10

Jonah 2:1-10

These verses were reminders to the Confirmation class of their childhood in Sunday school. They learned then that these verses are good to read when you have feelings of despair and are looking for hope. Where in your life do you need some hope right now?

Thursday, May 11

Psalm 61:1-8

This Psalm gives assurance of God's protection and presence. Knowing God is always by your side can be difficult at times in this world, but is a great comfort as we trust in God's faithfulness.

Friday, May 12

Zechariah 7:8-10

A stark reminder, not only to us but to everyone, that there is no excuse for being unkind. Never forget that one cannot truly know what is going on in another's life.

Saturday, May 13

Philippians 4:10-13

In this letter from Paul, written in jail, he shares "the secret of being content in any and every situation." These verses give you the ability to feel both hopeful and humble. God's strength will allow you to get through everything in life; good or bad, God is always there.



Please welcome the 2017 Confirmation Class: Emma Barickman, Kyle Battey, Sean Battey, Benjamin Blickhan, Charlie Bouillette, Grant Colvin, Sean Cunningham, Olivia DeSantis, Lauren Dornbusch, Nicholas Edge, Elizabeth Fredrick, Benjamin Groebe, Caleb Groebe, Ridgely Jones, George Luetje, Paige Lynch, Caroline McCafree, James McElhinney, Susan Murray, Michael (Graham) Nunnelee, Wyatt Pearlman, Thomas Pollock, Carolyn Popper, Sam Rydberg-Cox, Abigail Schipfer, Margaret Schutt, Christopher Short, Kathleen Stanley, Parker Step, James Stowers IV, Skyler Thao, Sophia Thuenemann, Max Tucker, Samuel Vaughan and Margaret Veglahn. Not pictured: August Hoffman, who will join at a later date.

Please join the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church (DRMP) at our annual fundraiser, Celebration Dominicana, at 7 p.m. Friday, June 9, at the Vox Theatre in Kansas City, Kan. Enjoy a festive evening of Caribbean food, drinks, music, dancing and a silent auction. Celebration Dominicana enables us to provide health care and health education to poverty-stricken communities in the Dominican Republic.

Celebration Dominicana

Get your tickets now at drmp2017.eventbrite.com.

Contact Lora Garrison, director of international mission for Village Church, at 913-671-2390 or lora.garrison@villagepres.org for more information.

Show Your Generosity

Is your annual gift to Village Church set up electronically? Do you wish you had a means to share with others a symbol that shows your support of Village Church through online giving? Look in the book holder in front of your pew and find the card that says **I Give Electronically**. When the offering plate is passed, just place this card in the plate as a representation of your generous gift.



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 by the family of Pat Woodward in celebration of his 90th birthday.

THE FOOD PANTRY – Today is Fruit Sunday! Thank you for your donations of all types of canned fruit. If you left yours at home, feel free to drop it in the church donation boxes on another day-or you may leave donations at the Pantry between 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Clients who shop the Clothes Closet are enjoying your wonderful donations of summer clothes. The need will continue as the weather warms. Thank you.

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

KC WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT TODAY – The Kansas City Wind Symphony presents “Conductor’s Favorites – a Retirement Concert” at 7 p.m. today, in the Village Church Sanctuary. The free concert marks the final concert of conductor Phil Posey. Alto saxophone soloist Bobby Watson will join with the ensemble in a special arrangement by Frank Ticheli of *Amazing Grace*. Visit kcwindsymphony.org for more information. A reception honoring Dr. Posey will follow the concert. The Kansas City Wind Symphony is a member ensemble of the Village Church Arts Alliance.

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** 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

Please register for the Village U classes you wish to attend at villagepres.org.

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. You will learn about costs and saving money and better understand the differences between electric vehicles and hybrids and plug-in electric vehicles. Come learn more about how Al views electric car ownership as one faithful way to care for God’s creation. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. Room 126.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR GOOGLE ID, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT? – The Village Church Computer Ministry will host “water cooler sessions” from 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month from May-September. Learn how the Google suite of products can be used to collaborate with others while doing God’s work in the church and the community. Topics will include Gmail and InBox, Google Calendar, Google Docs, Google Spreadsheets, Google Drive and Google Keep. Room 316.

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

VILLAGE FORUM – The topic for the series of classes led by Dr. John Borden is "The Search for God." Sessions will include the Yearning for God, the Role of Scripture in the Search, Milestones in Christian Thought and the Completion of the Search in Eternity. Dr. Borden will introduce his new book, *Connecting the Dots*. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Through May 14. Room 126.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER, MAY 10 – Baked ziti w/Italian sausage, baked vegetarian ziti, GF versions available. 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 tomorrow. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners to make a reservation. This is our last dinner of the school year. Dinners resume Sept. 6.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS CHURCH – This is a special opportunity for those newer to Village Church to spend time with Senior Pastor Tom Are, Jr. and learn more about Village Church. This is a two-part, free class that will be offered from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 30 (part 1), and June 6 (part 2), in Room 232 (south end of the building/2nd floor). A box dinner will be provided. To register, please contact Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org. Child care is available for this event with (7 days) advance notice reservation. Please make your child care reservations by contacting marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2322.

MISSION

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES – Friday, May 12, Village will 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, May 11. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

FOOD PANTRY SEEKS PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT – This is a part-time position, 10 hours a week. Get the complete job description and how to apply on our website: villagepres.org under the "Stay Informed" tab and "Employment Opportunities."

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL – Join us at 12:15 p.m. this Thursday, May 11, in the Village Chapel for a free recital with guest artists Dr. Margaret Marco, on oboe and English horn and Dr. Paulina Wu Leising, on piano. The program includes the *Concerto in D Minor* by Alessandro Marcello and *Romance No. 1* by Robert Schumann.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

CAREER CONNECTIONS STARTS THIS TUESDAY – If you are looking for a new job and could use information on resumes, interviews and more, come to the three-week Career Connection class. Classes will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 9, 16 and 23 in Room 230. Contact Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327 if you are interested.

STEPHEN MINISTRY'S HOUR OF CARING FORMATION – You are invited to join us at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 11, in Room 132 for a conversation with Michelle Niedens, the director of Education, Programs and Public Policy at The Alzheimer's Association. What is the best way to care for both caregiver and family member who are navigating the realities of Alzheimer disease and other forms of dementia? One in nine Americans over the age 65 have been diagnosed with the disease; by 2050 that number could be as high as 16 million. Every 66 seconds someone in this country develops Alzheimer's. Contact Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327.

TAIZÉ IS NEXT SUNDAY – Try the Taizé worship at 6:30 p.m. next Sunday, May 14. This worship service offers song, communion and time for silent reflection. Taizé worship is held at the VCCFDC at 9900 Mission Road.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW LUNCH AT CASCONO'S – Ladies of all ages are invited to join Women of Wisdom, (WOW), for a noon lunch on Thursday, May 18, at Johnny Cascone's Italian Restaurant. Located at 6863 West 91st, (91st and Metcalf). Along with Italian specialties, their menu includes soups, salads and sandwiches. RSVP to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608 by Wednesday, May 17.

MISSION SEWING accepts fabric, only one yard pieces or larger, cotton, cotton blends, and wool, also yarn and embroidery floss. Please contact Edie Hultman, 913-432-3515, regarding other items to be donated and general information. If you don't machine sew, perhaps you would enjoy doing some hand sewing, stuffing pillows or pressing. Come and go as your time permits.

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. at KC Bier Company. 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.

GPS – The annual Messy Game Night has been postponed to 6:30-8 p.m. this coming Wednesday, May 10. So throw on some clothes you don't mind getting dirty and bring a towel to join us for the last GPS meeting!

STUDY HALL – Do some last minute finals studying with us from 4-9 p.m. Monday, May 15. Dinner will be provided so get ready to buckle down and do some group quizzing to ace those tests!

YOUTH WEEK – Want to kick summer off to a great start? Join us for Youth Week, June 4-8. Activities range from Worlds of Fun to volunteering to a day at Powerplay! Check the youth website for the form to sign-up.

Thoughts from Village Commitment

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it."

—Proverbs 3:27



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

Sarah McKee Named New Village Preschool Director



Sarah McKee has been named as the next director of Village Church Weekday Preschool! Sarah is currently one of our Village Preschool teachers. She is also a member of Village Church, a Sunday School teacher and a parent of former Village preschoolers.

Current Village Preschool Director Terri Gaeddert said, "I know Sarah as a gifted educator, a passionate communicator, a natural leader... Most importantly, I know Sarah as a life-long learner, an intentional teacher and a constant advocate for young children and best practices in early childhood education."

Over the past two months a dedicated search committee - representing Preschool teachers, Preschool parents and Village Church staff - worked through 40 resumes and three interviews before making their recommendation. Many thanks to the Search Committee for their diligence and hard work.

Meet the Design & Digital Media Manager at Village Church

Please welcome Sean Tatschl as our new design and digital media manager. Sean comes to us from Omaha, Neb. where he and his family have lived for the past 14 years. Sean has 18 years of experience in web and graphic design. Most recently, Sean worked as a graphic designer and web programmer for multiple school districts. He also worked as a graphic designer and creative director for the *Omaha World-Herald* and was a graphic designer and web designer for Sprint.

Sean grew up in this area. He's a graduate of Shawnee Mission North High School and attended Southminster Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village. Sean's wife, Sue, is a hospice chaplain at University of Nebraska Medical Center. They have three children: Matthew (18), who is graduating from high school later this month, Anna (15) and Ben (9). His sister is Krista Tatchl Eyler, a former reporter at KMBC-TV.

Sean is an accomplished piano soloist and has played piano/organ duets with Mark Ball on many occasions. He also enjoys listening to vinyl records, visiting antique stores and fixing vintage toys. We're thrilled to have Sean join our team!



A Way to Say Thank you!

A **Tribute Gift** to Village Church Endowment Trust gives you an opportunity to honor any of the wonderful Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and other volunteers your child has had this year.

Simply make a **Tribute Gift** online by going to Village Church's website, villagepres.org, click on Endowment Trust and then Tribute Gifts. Complete the form and click submit. You will then be given the opportunity to pay online or you may send your check to the church.

After we receive your donation, we will send a card directly to the person you are honoring.

For more information, contact Molly Sirridge, director of Stewardship and Endowment Trust, 913-671-2325 or molly.sirridge@villagepres.org.



SERMON SERIES

Living Unafraid In a Frightening World

When Easter was over and the world got back to normal, some recognized there was a new normal now. The world today is a place of crosses. Bodies fail and hearts break, systems and structures crush the powerless. There is enough in this world to scare you to death. But Jesus is alive now—there is a new normal. Jesus is alive now, so we can live, even in this world, as a people who are living unafraid in a frightening world.

April 30	Act 1:6-11	You Shall Be My Witnesses
May 7	Acts: 7	Carry This Story With You
May 14	Acts 9:36-43	We All Need Dorcas in Our Lives
May 21	Acts 9:1-19	Being Converted to Christ Every Day
May 28	Acts 6:1-7	Now Hiring
June 4	Acts 2:1-13	Who Needs to Be There?
June 11	Acts 10	The Last Person I Thought I Would Need
June 18	Act 15	When God Shows Up At Your Meeting
July 2	Acts 15: 36-41	Barnabas: Son of Encouragement
July 9	Acts 26:12-18	Have I Told You This Story Before?
July 16	Acts 28:23-30	It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This?

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, senior associate ❖ 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.*