



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

July 9, 2017 • 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Paul traveled to Athens. There he encountered folks who were spiritual but not Christian. They were thoughtful about the meaning of life—some wondered if it has any meaning at all. At least some of them were humble, for they had erected a statue “to an unknown god.” Paul tells them of Jesus Christ. Paul is met with mixed responses, but some say, “We will hear you again about this.” This ancient moment feels very contemporary. Perhaps Paul can teach us how to respond to that hunger in ourselves and in our neighbors to know more about what matters in our lives.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
arr. Diane Bish; Rachel Priest, soprano (9:30 a.m.)

Alleluias
by Robert Lau (11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Come, join in worship and praise of our God!

What if we are tired and carrying heavy burdens?

Come, for God is here to offer rest and renewal.

What if we are unsure, or anxious and afraid?

Come with your belief and your unbelief; God has prepared a place for you.

What if we are hard to get along with?

Come and hear God call you beloved.

What if we are full of anger or mistakes?

Come, for God's grace is more than enough.

What if we don't know what to do or how to act?

Come and sing and we will make our way together.

*Hymn, No. 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
MADRID

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

Your works are too wonderful for us.

Your knowledge is so high, we cannot attain it.

And when we look at all your hands have done, we cannot help but wonder:

Who are we that you would care for us?

Who are we that you would partner with us?

Who are we to tell your story and proclaim your truth?

The task is big, and we grow weary;

the stakes are high, and we feel inadequate;

the challenges are constant, and we become cynical.

Forgive us, God, for all this and more. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Time with Children

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer

Change my heart, O God; ___ make it ev - er true. ___
Change my heart, O God; ___ may I be like you. ___

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Laura Edgington (9:30 a.m.); Ruth Johnson (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Acts 17:16-34 (pg. 1010)

Sermon

An Unknown God

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of Belhar

We believe in the triune God who gathers, protects, and cares for the church.

**We believe the church is one worldwide communion of saints
called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that through the working of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force,
and that we must seek this unity and make it visible.**

**We believe that the sin of division, separation, and hatred
between people and groups has been conquered by Christ
and must be resisted by the church.**

**We believe that God wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people,
and that for as long as the world is full of injustice and enmity,
God will be, in a special way,
the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged.**

To the one and only God be all honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn, No. 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
TRENTHAM

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision
by Daniel Musselman; The Summer Choir (9:30 a.m.)

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
arr. Diane Bish; Rachel Priest, soprano (11 a.m.)

*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. 838

Standing on the Promises
PROMISES

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

*Postlude

The Grasshopper's Dance
by Ernest Bucalossi

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

SERMON NOTES

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.

Passing the Peace

written by Rev. Len Carrell

Athletes, both young and old, shake hands after a passionately contested competition. World leaders shake hands during talks of diplomacy. Presidents shake hands to symbolize a peaceful transfer of power. Executives shake hands in closing heated negotiations. Doctors shake hands when sharing news with patients and families. Recently, our own members of Congress joined together in shaking hands and sharing peace after the horrible shooting of a fellow colleague in Alexandria, Va. Christian congregations shake hands during the public worship of God's people, symbolizing more than just a peaceful expression, but extending the peace of Christ to each other.

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:24). Sharing the peace is one of the oldest practices in our Christian worship. Remembering that the early church was a persecuted group, a physical sign of a mutually shared community of truth was essential.

We continue to share peace in remembrance of those who have walked in faith before us and in celebration of our gathered assembly today. It is so easy for us to take this time and greet only the faces we know. But being reconciled together "as brother and sister" means we must extend the peace of Christ to visitors. As Christians, we seek to be reconciled to one another. Practicing acts of peace is a daily action in life, not just a church thing. We do this because to be forgiven by God means we should be forgiving to each other. Being reconciled back to God through Jesus Christ means we should live as reconciled people of Jesus Christ. We celebrate this by shaking hands and greeting one another. But shaking hands is not the focus. Extending Christ's peace to our neighbors is the focus. Even subtle actions like a small embrace, or a grasping of arms, or making eye contact and simply saying "The peace of Christ be with you," are signs of extending Christ's peace in the world.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of July 10, 2017)

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 and our mission. Pray for God's world.

Monday, July 10

Romans 12:9-21

This text reads like a "to do" list from Paul. The list is rather impressive: "Overcome evil with good; be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer." Such instructions from the apostle remind us that trust in God is lived in the daily decisions of our lives. Each day we make choices that reflect our trust or sometimes lack of trust in God. Making choices like the apostle encourages gives expression to our trust in the Gospel.

Tuesday, July 11

Acts 16:1-5

Paul and Timothy shared in ministry of the early church. Paul, was converted on the Damascus Road in dramatic fashion. (That story is in Acts 9). Timothy, on the other hand, learned the faith from his grandmother. Faith can come to us in dramatic moments or over the long walk of life. It must be lived that way as well, both in the dramatic moments of our lives and in ordinary times.

Wednesday, July 12

Acts 16:16-25

Paul and Silas are thrown in jail. In an amazing detail, Acts tells us that they were singing hymns at midnight. When you are in your darkest hour, what would you sing? Sometimes speaking or singing our faith brings it to life in the moment, no matter how difficult the moment may be.

Thursday, July 13

Acts 16:25-34

Paul and Silas demonstrated a strong faith in the midst of adversity. It not only carried them through the night, but it inspired those who watched them. You never know the influence you can have on another when you seek to live your faith.

Friday, July 14

Psalms 100

The Lord is our maker. The reason to sing is because God's choice to create means life is a gift. You did not have to be, but God imagined you into being. That is reason enough to make a joyful noise.

Saturday, July 15

Psalms 124

Again the psalmist praises the work of the creator. We belong to the one who made us, so we have reason for hope, even in times of trouble. God is present even in adversity. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth; therefore, nothing in heaven or earth shall we fear.

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 Mardie Kirkwood by her family.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – You're invited to attend the Taizé service this evening at 6:30 p.m. Reflect, sing, relax and join in communion to start your week off on a calm and reflective note. This worship service, which will focus on the beauty of creation, is held at the VCCFDC at 9900 Mission Road.

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

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP – This summer, all children are welcomed and encouraged to sit with their families for the first 10 minutes of the worship service. During the 9:30 a.m. service, after Time with Children, elementary-age children are invited to meet teachers at the back of the Sanctuary to continue on in Sunday School, or to stay and keep worshipping with their families. **Parents of preschool-age children must check their child in on the 1st floor in the Preschool wing.**

PRESCHOOL CHURCH SCHOOL – Parents should 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.

BROADLY GRADED SUNDAY SCHOOL – Children who have completed grades K-5th grade meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 203 (Creation Station) for a totally fun way to look at favorite Old Testament stories.

ARE YOU A M.O.P. (MOTHER OF A CHILD FROM NEWBORNS THROUGH PRESCHOOL)? – Village Church is starting a MOPS group this fall meeting the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Join our kick-off registration at 11 a.m. Friday, July 21. For more information, call 913-671-2355.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Summer Adult Sunday Morning Class

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING. CONVERSATIONS ON THE SERMON TEXT FOR ALL ADULTS – Today and continuing each Sunday through Aug. 20, all adults are invited to study and discuss the Bible text for the day's sermon. The class welcomes persons who are new to the Bible as well as those who are more familiar with the Bible. Dr. Rodger Nishioka leads the class today and July 16 and 23. 10:45-11:45 a.m. in Rooms 126 & 127.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR GOOGLE ID, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT? – The Village Church Computer Ministry is hosting "water cooler sessions" on the first Wednesday of the month. Remaining sessions will be held on Aug. 2 and Sept. 6. 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. 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 316.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

AGE 60s DINNER – Dragon Inn Oriental Cuisine, 6 p.m. Friday, July 14. Village Church is offering a fun opportunity for people in their 60s (couples and singles) at Dragon Inn, 7500 W. 80th St., Overland Park. Dragon Inn, a family owned business, serves Peking and Szechuan dishes. Each person is responsible for their own tab. Reservation under “Village Church Group.” Space is limited. RSVP to liz.middleton@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2359. Menu at <http://dragoninn.us/>.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Summer shirts in all sizes for men and women are needed at the Clothes Closet - large and x-large sizes are particularly in demand. At the Food Pantry, the request is for 1-2 lb. packages of all varieties of rice and beans. Fresh garden produce is also greatly welcomed by the clients. Your excess is put to good use. Thank you.

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES – Friday, July 14, 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, July 13. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW LUNCH AT AIXOIS – Women of Wisdom (WOW) invites all women to lunch at noon on Wednesday, July 19, at Aixois, a casual French restaurant at 251 East 55th St. in Kansas City, Mo, just north of the Brookside area. Parking is on the street or in a church parking lot directly across the street. Enjoy warm fellowship and pleasant dining at our last summer lunch before WOW’s next event in September. RSVP by Tuesday, July 18, to Diane Lee at dianelee@att.net or 913-432-4321.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

BIER AND BIBLE – 7 p.m. Thursday night, KC Bier Company. We’re talking about the gospel of Mark. With a short attention span, no need for “fluff,” and a knack for political critique, this gospel was written for young adults (not really, but kind of). Let’s read it together. Bring a Bible (Rev. Hallie would love to give you one if you ask!). Pizza provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Meet us in the Youth Loft at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School.

CHAT AND CHILL – High schoolers come hang out up in the youth offices each Monday from 10 a.m.-noon. It’s relaxed, it’s chill, and if you want to grab lunch afterward that’s cool, too!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE DAY – Every Tuesday this summer we will be hosting a middle school service day! Join us each week from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. as we venture into the community to help where we can.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVIES N’ FOODIES – Calling all middle schoolers! Come hang out with us Wednesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Youth Loft. Movie, lunch and fun provided each week.

HIGH SCHOOL LATE NITE – Take a break from the week and join us from 8-10 p.m. Wednesdays for an evening of summer fellowship. New adventures planned each week!

More Info:
VillagePres.org/Antioch

A Multigenerational VBS at
Village on Antioch

July 10 - 13



RE-FORM: BEING THE CHURCH IN EVERY AGE

Starts Tomorrow Night

This original Vacation Bible School program is intended for all ages. Bring family and friends, of any age, or come alone. We'll eat dinner together at 5:30 p.m., create music and art and split into groups for age-appropriate learning. Our VBS creators and leaders are Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor of Village Church, Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor and director of educational ministries, and Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor for young adults and Village on Antioch bridge site pastor. Register and get more information at villagepres.org/antioch.

A Day with Author and Scholar

Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench, Professor of Biblical Interpretation

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 29, Friendship Hall

All are welcome to attend a day with Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench to learn more about the Gospel of John. The 2017-2018 Circle Study for Presbyterian Women of Village Church draws heavily from Dr. Gench's work. The morning session includes an overview of John's Gospel; the afternoon session includes closer, in-depth examination of a selected text and a sample circle lesson. Women and men alike will enjoy a fun and educational day. There is no cost to attend the sessions; lunch is provided for \$10.

RSVP by July 21 to 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.



Village on Antioch

HOSTS

Heartland Traveling Day Camp

8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m. | July 31 – Aug. 4

For Kids K-6th Grade

Register at

villageantioch.org/summer-programs

Heartland Camp staff will lead Bible studies, worship, singing, and crafts, as well as wild, zany recreation. Heartland Camp is 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, July 31-Friday, Aug. 4 at Village Presbyterian Church on Antioch, located at 14895 Antioch Road. Cost is \$80. Call 913-671-2355 for more information. For those wanting daily transportation to this camp from Village on Mission, we will provide a school bus, leaving promptly at 8 a.m. The bus will return to Village on Mission by 5 p.m. daily. Advance bus reservation required.

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
June 25	Acts 20:7-12	A Lesson From Eutychus
July 2	Acts 15:36-41	Barnabas: Son of Encouragement
July 9	Acts 17:16-34	An Unknown God
July 16	Acts 26:12-18	Have I Told You This Story Before?
July 23	Genesis 28:10-19a	Dreaming in the Age of Anxiety; Rev. Chris Henry
July 30	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 Sanctuary worship service is rebroadcast the following Sunday at 8 a.m. 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.*