ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE

The invitations had been sent. The dinner was prepared. But then the guests who were invited couldn’t come—or is it they wouldn’t come? This is a repeated story in the teaching of Jesus. It makes you wonder if God often finds we have better things to do than to come when he invites us.
That we are here today is no accident.

**Christ himself has called us together.**

The invitation stretches far and wide:

- **from wilderness and wandering,**
- **from loneliness and longing,**
- **all have a place at the table.**

The feast is ready and waiting:

- **there is more than enough truth to go around,**
- **joy is ours for the taking,**
- **and peace is poured out in abundance.**

Our every need has been anticipated.

**Taste and see that God is good.**

*Hymn, No. 509

**All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**

**HOLY MANNA**

*Prayer of Confession*

**Merciful God,**

Your patience is more than we deserve,

for our priorities are so often confused.

You invite us to your table of life and love,

and rather than running full tilt,

we hesitate.

- We consult our calendars and weigh our options.
- We consider who else might be in attendance,
  or we question whether we really belong.

**Forgive us, God,**

for not always knowing what is best for us,

and forgive us when we know, but still choose otherwise.

**Show us once again what faithfulness looks like.** (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace*
*Response

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Time with the Children (9:30 a.m.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer
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

Clara Martin (9:30 a.m.)
Amy Muller (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 14:15-24 (pg. 952)

Sermon

I Can’t Make It: You Won’t Believe What Happened
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 726

Will You Come and Follow Me
KELVINGROVE

Offertory

Seek to Serve
music: Lloyd Pfautsch; The Summer Choir (9:30 a.m.)

Let Us Dance, Let Us Sing
music: Henry Purcell; Jenna Soltys (11 a.m.)

*Response

Lord of All Good
TOULON

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole lives are offered to your will.

*Prayer of Dedication
*Hymn, No. 772

*Response

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*Postlude

Let the Whole Creation Cry, Alleluia!
by Anne Krentz Organ; Roseann Penner Kaufman, piano
THE CHURCH’S BOOK (Week of July 25, 2016)
The following are daily Bible readings 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 25
Psalm 85
Restoration, forgiveness, steadfast love, faithfulness and peace. All of these are classic words that express God’s covenant relationship with us. Far less often do these things represent our own character and response as God’s children. The Lord is the one who continues to give us all that is good.

Tuesday, July 26
Psalm 52
The battle is on in this passage between good and evil, between the treacherous mighty one and the humbled righteous one. The startling question becomes “Who am I?” The truth is, as people of this world we straddling the battle line. It is far too easy to hear our self and others who “love lying more than speaking the truth.” The lesson is the call to being in right relationship with God. Those whose eyes are opened, and who see and fear and take refuge in God, they will be like an olive tree planted in the house of God.

Wednesday, July 27
Romans 6:1-6
The question Paul asks, he answers himself. Have you ever found yourself talking with your conscience? Do we continue with sin in order that grace may abound? “By no means!” The word walk is a call to moral ethical behavior, or renewed walk. The word united, which also means, “planted with” indicates a process of growth. New life is not a victory lap, or an arrival, it is a journey.

Thursday, July 28
Luke 10:38-41
As we heard in our recent sermon series, the “better part” that Mary chooses is to take the time to sit and be renewed by the Word of Christ. Martha is engaged in the work of ministry, but the work of ministry is not a solo act. It is not ministry if we are left to do all the work ourselves. The work of ministry is also not separated from God’s Word, which can never be taken away from the work or from us.

Friday, July 29
Luke 11:1-4
Right after Jesus imparts to Martha to take time to sit and listen to his words, as her sister Mary does. Jesus’ disciples ask him to teach them to pray. Doesn’t our worship look like this? We hear the word of our Lord, and then we pray the way our Lord has taught us. Going to God in intimate petition saying, “Father.” Asking God to reveal His kingdom to us, and to give us our daily portion. Appealing to God’s mercy for our own forgiveness and instructing us in the ways of forgiveness. And upholding us by not putting us to the test that we know we will stumble over.

Saturday, July 30
Luke 14:15 -24
This great banquet is yet again another parable of the kingdom table. What’s surprising is how is begins. Someone exclaims, in joy or in outrage, “Blessed is ANYONE who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” (Exclamation point, not question mark.) We who think we are too good, or too busy to be sitting at this feast may not see its blessing. The poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame; they are all at the table, and yet there is still more than enough room. Look whose coming to dinner in the kingdom of God. Everyone!
A Sneak Preview of Village U Fall 2016 Classes

Excitement is building for the fall as we prepare to launch our latest offerings of Village U Adult Classes. Among the new first-time classes are:

“Gabriel’s Revelation” in September taught by the Rev. Dwight Tawney, about an ancient tablet authored by the archangel Gabriel who appears in the Book of Daniel and the Gospel of Luke. The tablet also features descriptions of the suffering Messiah.

“Finding the Face of God in Art: Hamilton and Rent” in December taught by the Rev. Len Carrell, which will explore these two iconic Broadway shows and how they each speak to Christian theological themes and understandings.

“Where Have All the Young Adults Gone?” in November co-taught by the Rev. Hallie Hottle and Dr. Rodger Nishioka, explores who young adults are and why so few of them are finding meaning in the Church today.

“Real Ethics for the Workplace” in October taught by Charles “Chick” Keller, a business executive at Sprint and professor of management at KU. Keller will help persons know how to make the right decision in the midst of tough situations at the office.

“Wisdom for Living the Good Life from the Pirkei Avot” in October taught by Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn. Rabbi Cukierkorn will help us see how wisdom teachings compiled by Rabbis from the Jewish Mishnaic tradition influenced the teachings of Jesus and speak to our lives today as followers of Christ.

Join us for an exciting fall as these courses and many others help to shape our journeys as faithful followers of God. All are welcome. All Village U courses are free, although some courses include a small fee for supplies and/or transportation.

Classes are now listed on the Village U web page http://www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.html

Look for the fall catalog by Aug. 1. Registration opens Aug. 15 for church members and Aug. 22 for the community.
TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

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.

SURF SHACK VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CHILDREN SING today in the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP - At our 9:30 a.m. service, all children are invited to sit with their families for the start of worship. We'll have a “Time for Children,” both to engage our kids in worship, and also to remind us all that Jesus made special time for his youngest followers; and we should, too. After the Time for Children, they 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. (Or see other options below.)

PRESCCHOOL 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.

BROADLY-GRADED ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL - Children who have completed grades K-5 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.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

SUMMER SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY - More than a Summer Picnic: Food for the Journey of Faith
Come join us as we explore the sermon text for the day based around meals in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Adults of all ages are welcome. 10:45-11:45 a.m. in Rooms 126 and 127.

Upcoming classes include:
- Aug. 7 Luke 19:1-10 Jesus and Zaccheaus, taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka

WATCH FOR THE FALL 2016 VILLAGE U CATALOG … COMING AUG. 1! Village U 2016 fall term registration for Village members begins on Monday, Aug. 15. For the community registration begins on Monday, Aug. 22. We hope you will spend some time discovering all of the opportunities for both young and older adults to grow in knowledge and faith together. The fall 2016 Village U curriculum offers a wide spectrum of classes in the areas of Art, Christian Living, Computer, Family Life, Health and Wellness, Leisure and Life Skills.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

CLIMATE & ENERGY IN KANSAS FORUM - Our committee is co-sponsoring a political forum about environmental issues across Kansas at 7 p.m. tomorrow July 25, in Rooms 126/127. Entitled “State of the State: Climate & Energy in Kansas,” this forum will focus on environmental issues affecting Kansans, including human health and social/environmental justice. Moderator Rev. Kirk Perucca will be joined by four panelists: Dorothy Barnett, Kristin Riott, Rep. Barbara Bollier and Rep. Stephanie Clayton.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY - The search for summer clothes never ends. Summer is half over, and the Clothes Closet is still accepting summer clothing. The Food Pantry is, with your help, putting more personal care products on the shelves. Please continue to donate bar soap, sunscreen, deodorant, shampoo and insect repellent - these are all necessary during these hot months. To go with these, the Closet would like towels and washcloths. Thank you.
PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP STARTS SEPT. 6 - The next Divorce Support Group will meet for six weeks beginning Tuesday, Sept. 6, through Oct. 25. The group will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 206. Dr. Dave Ehman, a licensed psychologist, will be the facilitator. Child care is available by advance request; if you would like child care, contact Pam Southerland by Tuesday, Aug. 30, 913-671-2352 or pam.southerland@villagepres.org. To register, contact Linda Alley, 913-671-2327, or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF STARTS IN SEPTEMBER - Grief is a journey. Growing Through Grief, a five-week class, is designed to help people discover God’s graceful healing presence during this difficult time. This series will be Sept. 14-Oct. 12, every Wednesday from 5-6:15 p.m. in Room 124. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

MISSION SEWING - Attention: Knitters! We need to start stockpiling mittens for Family Conservatory. We have yarn for you to pick up on any Tuesday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. We still need hats, too, both baby and children’s sizes. Contact Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 for more information.

SOCIAL WITNESS AND ADVOCACY

GETTING OUT THE VOTE IN KANSAS! The Village Church Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force will address questions and distribute information about the Aug. 2 Kansas primary election after the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary worship services and the 5 p.m. Gathering service today and next Sunday in Friendship Hall. President Franklin D. Roosevelt asserted: “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

EXTENDED TABLE - Worship 5 p.m, Dinner 6 p.m, Friendship Hall - We’ll gather after The Gathering for relaxed dinner and conversation about that week’s topic in Friendship Hall. Sleep in, then come feed your body and your soul.

BIER AND BONHOEFFER - Every Thursday in July, we’ll meet at 7 p.m. at KC Bier Company at 310 W. 79th Street in Kansas City, Mo. We’ll read Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Life Together and consider what “community” means today. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who resisted the Nazis and encouraged Christian thinking in a secularized society. He was ultimately executed for his failed assassination plot of Hitler, but left behind writing that has remained relevant, perhaps especially today. It’s $5 for the book!

SOCIAL WITNESS AND ADVOCACY

SOFTBALL ACROSS STATE LINES! - 6 p.m. Saturday, July 30, (field location TBA). No softball skills necessary (though helpful!) to play with the first ever Village YA Softball Team as we take on Second Pres. KC’s Young Adults! Email hallie.hottle@villagepres.org to sign up!

AUGUST SERVICE DAY - Come do good work with good people at the Cherith Brook Catholic Worker House from 9 a.m.- noon Saturday, Aug. 13! There’s a chicken coop that needs tended to, an orchard that needs groomed, food to be prepared, and houses to clean! This is a local site that helps with emergency housing and food needs of our neighbors in northeast Kansas City, all while living together in intentional community. Children are welcome on this adventure! Address: 3308 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO.
YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES - will meet in the Youth Loft at 9:30 a.m. Room 333.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 9 MEALS - 6-7:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Youth Loft. 6th-12th graders. We will be spending nine Sunday dinners exploring cuisine from different parts of the world!

LATE NITE - 8-10 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in the Youth Loft. 9-12th graders. Just like last summer, Late Nite is an evening for High Schoolers to hang out with friends for fun and fellowship.

MISSION DAYS - 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Youth Loft. Graduated 6th–8th graders. What better way to use the middle of your week than to help others through local missions!

VIEW & CHEW - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Thursdays in Room 304. Graduated 6th-8th graders. We’ll be eating lunch, watching a movie and spending time in fellowship!

BOUNDARY WATERS – Our high schoolers leave next week, July 31, for the lakes of northern Minnesota. As we approach this date, we would appreciate your prayers for a safe and fun time on the water!

Village Cup Weekday Summer Vacation

Please note that the Village Cup Coffee Shop will be closed Monday through Friday, July 25-29 and Aug. 1-5. We will be open Sunday mornings. Thank you!
Festival of Faiths Presents Bingo on the Boulevard

The Kansas City Festival of Faiths is pleased to announce four performances of Bingo on the Boulevard from now through July 30 at the Jerome Stage at the Unicorn Theatre (3838 Main). In the play, Troost Avenue—long KC’s line of demarcation—and its neighborhood people come to life at monthly bingo. Then tragedy hits. Inspired by true stories collected in local interviews, the play draws you into everyday worlds of an illegal immigrant, a pastor for social justice, a mentally ill outcast, a female impersonator and more. It is written by Donna W. Ziegenhorn, author of the popular interfaith play, The Hindu and the Cowboy. Tickets ($10) are on sale at kcfringe.org or at the door.

An Invitation to SING!

Everyone who likes to sing is invited to participate in Summer Choir. The music is fairly easy and fun, and the only rehearsal is at 8:45 a.m. preceding the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Rehearsal is in Room 14 in the lower level of the Sanctuary building.
SUMMER SERMON SERIES

More than a Summer Picnic

Someone once said, in Luke’s Gospel Jesus seems to be at a meal, on his way to a meal, or on his way from a meal. The table is an important place. It is a place of story telling. It is a place of community building. Sometimes the table is the place where we gain a glimpse of the promised day of God. When Jesus is at the table, grace is served; and life is good. When Jesus is at the table, there is always enough; and there is always room for others. This summer we will join Jesus at the table of his ministry. There we will find not simply a summer picnic, but a feast!

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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
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 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary worship service is broadcast the following Sunday morning 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.