



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 5, 2021 • 9 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Today we begin a new sermon series about church. More specifically, what is the church for? What does the church mean to you? And what should the church mean to the world? Our denomination has some historic statements called the "Great Ends of the Church" that attempt to speak to these questions. In this series, we will reflect on each of these statements to mine their wisdom for our lives in these days.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude *Picardy from "Four Folk Hymn Preludes for Violin and Organ"*
by Dale E. Ramsey; Bruce Williams, violin

Words of Welcome Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Call to Worship Rev. Sally S. Wright

With all the saints,
through every generation,
we join our voices to declare:

Jesus Christ is Lord.

He has been Lord from the beginning,

he will be Lord at the end.

Even now he is Lord.

Let our mouths proclaim God's praise,
and our lives declare our worship of Jesus the Christ.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

*Hymn, No. 462

I Love to Tell the Story

*Unison Morning Prayer

Gracious God,

we remember the hope of the prophets,

the song of the angels,

and the good news of a savior who lived and died for us.

We also remember the testimony of your children through the generations,

for we are the recipients of a hope that has been given to us.

We have inherited a love that has been poured out on us,

and the good news of your redemption has been bestowed upon us.

May we live this day and those to come shaped by this faith. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Brooke Brundige

Call to Prayer

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

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

Dove of Peace from "Four Folk Hymn Preludes For Violin and Organ"
by Dale E. Ramsey; Bruce Williams, violin

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 3:1-10

Sermon

The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 321 (vs. 1-2, 4-5)

The Church's One Foundation

Time for Discipleship

*Hymn, No. 299 (vs. 1-3)

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Then let us adore and give him his right:

**all glory and power,
all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing,
with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing,
and infinite love!**

*Postlude

Praelude
by Denis Bedard

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

Six Great Ends of the Church

The "Great Ends of the Church" are a set of six mission statements that define the life and work of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For decades, these axioms have helped establish the course for mission and ministry, and present basic works to our denomination that are the heart of who the church is and what the church is called to do. In celebration of these important and holy duties, and as reminders of the same, Presbyterian Churches across the country created banners to display in their houses of worship. Make sure to visit the Welcome Center to see Village's own banners of "The Six Great Ends of the Church." The First Great End is the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.

Connection Sunday Next Week

Join us as we kick off the year with Connection Sunday on Sept. 12. As we launch programs and events this year, we'll have special treats to make at home as a family activity or share with a neighbor, activities for kids (9:30 a.m. service), and invitations for you about our events in the coming weeks. Village Church is grateful for you!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, Sept. 19

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Sept. 19. This meeting will take place at both campuses immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service at the Village on Mission Sanctuary, the 10 a.m. service at Village on Antioch and after The Gathering at 5 p.m. at Village on Mission. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new church officers for the positions of elder, elder/trustee and deacon. At-large members of the Nominating Committee will also be elected. Ordination of new church officers will take place in early January 2022.

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

We're so happy to have you worshiping with us today! Visit villagepres.org to learn more about Village Church, including upcoming events, ways to connect and serve, how to give and more.

NEW TO US? Village Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian Church (USA) family of faith that is inclusive, caring and welcoming of all people. We are one church worshiping at two campuses. Our Overland Park Campus is located at 14895 Antioch Road. If you would like a tour of Village Church on Mission, contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331.

THE GATHERING – Join us for The Gathering for an alternative style of worship at Village Church, 5 p.m. Sundays in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. We are now livestreaming the service, too. Learn more at vpcthegathering.org.

RETURN TO REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT. 12 – Worship services will be at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the Village on Mission Sanctuary and The Gathering, alternative worship, at 5 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Village on Antioch will continue to worship at 10 a.m.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

REGISTER FOR FALL VILLAGE U CLASSES at villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

UPCOMING CLASS:

TECH TALK WITH TONY – 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, Room 316 at Village on Mission and via Zoom. Tony Liu will discuss Google's Tools. Learn how to use a laptop computer, smartphone or tablet with these Google Tools.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES will begin next Sunday, Sept. 12. Email laura.hobbs@villagepres.org for Zoom information.

Faith Journey meets in Room 230 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Our community respects the lead of the Holy Spirit in each of our respective journeys as we grow and support each other. Our format is to use book studies, guest speakers and videos to explore new perspectives and examine our own beliefs.

Foundations of Faith meets via Zoom (only) at 11 a.m. Combining science, history and archaeology with the Bible, our class welcomes all seekers. This class also offers videos and guest speakers, including Rev. Dwight Tawney whenever possible.

Village Forum meets in Rooms 126 & 127 and via Zoom from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class topics include biblical studies, theology, social issues and church history. Discussion is encouraged, and classes are led by visiting teachers as well as class members.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.

NO LIGHTHOUSE TODAY.

FALL LIGHTHOUSE KICKOFF – POPSICLES ON THE PLAYGROUND – Connect with other Village families on the south playground after the Lighthouse on Sunday, Sept. 12.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY FAMILY MEALS – Find menus and order meals at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners for \$5. Deadline each week is noon on Mondays. For curbside pickup, drive up to the north entrance at Village on Mission between 4:30-5:30 p.m. to receive your meals through your car window. Beginning Sept. 15, you can enjoy the Wednesday Family Meals Dine-In option in Friendship Hall from 5:30-6 p.m. We ask that you be fully vaccinated to take advantage of this dine-in option. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331 with questions.

FALL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL – 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, in the Village on Mission north parking lot. Bring your family and lawn chairs and enjoy music from the Aaron Linscheid Trio and kids' activities. Purchase food from four gourmet food trucks. Sponsored by Connectional Ministries Committee. Contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 with questions.

MISSION

FOOD PANTRY – Again this week, the Food Pantry is asking for a variety of canned vegetables. The Clothes Closet is requesting back-to-school clothing and shoes for all ages. Next Sunday will be Peanut Butter Sunday. Please be generous with your donations, as peanut butter is a staple in the clients' diet.

TOUR OF RESTORATION HOUSE - The Mission Committee has arranged to tour Restoration House (transitional housing for victims of sex trafficking), 1 p.m. Sept. 16 (25713 S State Route K, Harrisonville, Missouri). Call Deborah White at 913-671-2369 if you are interested in joining the tour.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! Now is a great time to join our choirs and instrumental ensembles as we kick off the year of music ministry. There is truly something for everyone to plug into in the Village Music Ministry. Please email Carol Dale or any of our music staff for more information on schedules or what group would be the best fit for your interests! Carol's email is carol.dale@villagepres.org.

2ND THURSDAY RECITAL – At 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9 we'll have our opening recital for the 2nd Thursday Recital Series. We are thrilled to feature Josh Jones and welcome him to Kansas City and Village Church, the new percussionist for the Kansas City Symphony, for this 30-minute recital in the Sanctuary. The recital will be followed by a COVID-safe Meet the Artist Reception in the Welcome Center Courtyard.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

"FAITH & GRIEF" THIS TUESDAY – Join us for the first back-in-person Faith and Grief Gathering noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. A boxed lunch is provided; you may eat it here or take it with you. Masks required for all. Social distancing will be observed. Registration is not required but is extremely helpful; register at faithandgrief.org or call 469-251-9612.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CLASSIC CITIZENS CELEBRATION ON SEPT. 23 - Join us for the Classic Citizens Celebration 1:30-3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary and Welcome Center. If you are unable to come in person, join us online. Watch your mailbox for a special invitation.

YOUTH MINISTRY

TRIP SIGNUPS BEGIN SEPT. 7 – Signups open Sept. 7 for the Dominican Republic Mission Trip (March 12-19, 2022), the High School Ski Trip (Jan. 14-18), and the Middle School Ski Trip (Feb. 19-23). Visit villagepresyouth.org to sign up.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS BEGIN WEDNESDAY – GPS (Middle School Youth Group): Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Early Table (High School Devotional): Thursdays, 7:30-8:15 a.m. Sunday Series (all-grades class series): Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. SNL (High School Youth Group): Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Lofternoons (Middle School after-school program): Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m. For details visit villagepresyouth.org/calendar.

SPORTING KC GAME – All youth are invited to a Sporting KC soccer game vs. Chicago Fire on Sept. 11. We will meet at Village at 5:30 p.m. and carpool to Children's Mercy Park, and we will be back at Village by 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$23 and signup is required. Email madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org or visit vpcpvks.brushfire.com/youth to sign up.

CAPSTONE BEGINS SEPT. 19 – High School seniors are invited to join Capstone, a thoughtful, discussion-based faith formation class. Class is held 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (dates, locations, & syllabus will be emailed when you register) and runs September through March. Register for free at villagepresyouth.org/capstone.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

The Church: An Already/Not Yet People

What is a church good for? Why did God decide the world that God loves needs a church? Well, there are several responses to such questions. A few centuries ago, the Presbyterian Church identified some grand purposes to describe what the church is for. These purposes are called the “Great Ends of the Church.” There are six Great Ends. They describe the life of the church as it is, at least to a point. But they also are aspirational and describe what the church should be. In that sense, they describe the church as it already is, while at the same time, they describe the church as it has yet to become. Rev. Are explores each of these ancient statements. They are hopeful. They are challenging. They are relevant, perhaps more relevant today than they were when they were drafted centuries ago. Of course, these were written in language that sounds more like Thomas Jefferson than the way we talk today; but there is still wisdom to be found in these old words. And when the church chooses to live toward these Great Ends or Great Purposes, there may be no other place you would rather be in/among these already/not yet people.

Sept. 5	The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind
Sept. 12	The Shelter, Nurture and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God
Sept. 19	The Maintenance of Divine Worship
Sept. 26	The Preservation of the Truth
Oct. 3	The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World
Oct. 10	The Promotion of Social Righteousness

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist

Will Breytspraak, director of music ❖ Brooke Brundige, director of children and family ministry

Laura Davis, director of marketing and communications ❖ Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care

Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry ❖ Marjean Lindquist, director of child care

Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music ❖ Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor

Robert Rumold, director of information technology ❖ Bob Sperry, director of giving and endowment

Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations ❖ Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries

Deborah White, director of mission ❖ Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries

Rev. Sally S. Wright, pastor of pastoral care ❖ Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, founding pastor, 1947-1994

Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher to bring you one.

Streaming video of Sunday services is available at villagepres.org/online.

The Sanctuary worship service is broadcast the following week at 8 a.m. on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel and on our worship service phone line 913-203-1301.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.