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## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 26, 2021 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The Fourth Great End of the church is the preservation of the truth. This work may be more important these days than in any other time in our lives. Truth is often attacked. It is sometimes ignored. When this occurs, communities are put at risk, because we cannot stay in healthy relationships without truth.

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God (8, 9:30 a.m.)*

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; Village Ringers

*Down to the River to Pray (11 a.m.)*

arr. Anna Laura Page; Morning Bells

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Call to Worship

Rev. Hallie Hottle

In the presence of God, we trust:

**That our prayers are heard,**

**and our hurts are healed,**

**and we are loved.**

We sing to God our help, our hope, and our home.

\*Hymn, No. 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

\*Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy,**

**We live with a divided heart.**

**We want to serve you, but our egos get in the way.**

**We want to fight the good fight, but we are weary.**

**We want to live in truth, but our false narratives tease us.**

**God of mercy, draw close to us in our unsettled lives.**

**Be our strength, our rock and our redeemer.** (Silent prayer)

\*Assurance of God's Grace

\*Sung Response (Sing twice)

**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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Exodus 32:1-6

Call to Prayer (first time choir; second time congregation)

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us; kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

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 & 11 a.m.)

*Praise Ye*

by Giuseppe Verdi; Trent Green, tenor & Ron Witzke, bass

Scripture

John 18:33-38

Sermon

*The Preservation of the Truth*

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn, No. 377

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Offertory Anthem

*O For A Closer Walk With God*  
by Charles Stanford; Village Choir

*Oh! for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly frame;  
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!  
Return, O holy Dove, return! Return! Return!  
Sweet messenger of rest;  
I hate the sins that made thee mourn, that made thee mourn,  
And drove thee from my breast.  
So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame:  
So purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb. —William Cowper*

\*Sung Response

**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!  
Praise Christ, All Creatures here below!  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore! Praise triune God, whom we adore! Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn, No. 65 (Choir only vs. 2)

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*  
by Peter Lutkin

\*Postlude

*Mit Freuden Zart*  
arr. Paul Laubengayer

*\*All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today we welcome Morning Bells and Village Ringers handbell ensembles to worship. The unique timbre of bells contributes brightness and joy to the celebration of our Christian community. If you're interested in ringing bells at Village, contact Joshua Maize at [josh.maize@villagepres.org](mailto:josh.maize@villagepres.org) or Elisa Bickers at [elisa.bickers@villagepres.org](mailto:elisa.bickers@villagepres.org).

### **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 Fourth Great End is the preservation of the truth.

## WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

We're so happy to have you worshiping with us today! Visit [villagepres.org](http://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 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](mailto: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. Learn more at [vpcthegathering.org](http://vpcthegathering.org).

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**ELECTRIC CAR SHOW** – 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, south parking lot of Village on Mission. See all-electric and plug-in hybrid/electric vehicles. Email Al Pugsley at [apphs58@yahoo.com](mailto:apphs58@yahoo.com) for more info.

**FREEING JESUS: REDISCOVERING JESUS AS FRIEND, TEACHER, SAVIOR, LORD, WAY, AND PRESENCE** – Taught by Rev. Dr. Meredith Holladay, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26, Room 126. How has your experience of Jesus changed over the years? Theologian Diana Butler Bass sought to answer that question in her most recent book.

**GALATIANS: CRISIS IN THE CHURCH** – Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Rooms 132 & 133, and via Zoom. What does the letter to the Galatians have to say to us today? How do we deal with conflict and disagreements? We will explore what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church now.

**A THEOLOGY IN OUTLINE: AN OVERVIEW OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY** – Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka from 11 a.m.-noon Thursdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 18, & Dec. 2, 9, via Zoom. Participants must purchase this book and will covenant to read one chapter before each class.

**REGISTER FOR VILLAGE U CLASSES** at [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes). Email [laura.hobbs@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.hobbs@villagepres.org) for Zoom information.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE WITH REV. TOM ARE** – 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 19-26, & Nov. 2, 9, in Room 228. Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning Bible Study. Chef Andrea will prepare a hot breakfast. To make a reservation for breakfast, register online. Cost: \$6. Child care is not available.

**FEAST 2.0 RETREAT** – 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29–3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, meet at Village on Mission to carpool. Join us for a retreat at Conception Abbey for a time of personal growth and development and alone time with the Spirit. Conception Abbey is a beautiful monastery of the Benedictine Order that is a two hour drive north of Kansas City. Email [laura.hobbs@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.hobbs@villagepres.org) for information and to register.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

**FIRST FLOOR-CHILD CARE AVAILABLE** – Starting today, child care is offered at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. services only. Infants to 4-year-olds in Rooms 114, 111 and/or 107.

**PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY LIGHTHOUSE** – Check in at south playground at 9:30 a.m. service.

## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

**GET YOUR FLU SHOT** – 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village on Mission. No appointment necessary. Wear a mask as you enter the building to check in.

**WEDNESDAY FAMILY MEALS** – Order \$5 meals by noon Mondays at [villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners). For curbside pickup, drive up to the north entrance at Village on Mission between 4:30 & 5:30 p.m. Or, choose the dine-in option from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Please be fully vaccinated if you dine in. Meals are served in to-go containers. Email [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org) or call 913-671-2331 with questions.

## MISSION

**FOOD PANTRY** – Autumn is here! That means the days are cooler and a warm bowl of soup hits the spot. The Food Pantry is asking for soups and broth of all kinds and assorted crackers to go with it. The Clothes Closet wants fall/winter back-to-school clothing to fill the racks. Another request is children's storybooks.

**TOURS OF KANSAS CITY NON-PROFITS** – The Mission Committee has arranged to tour several Kansas City nonprofits. Tours are New Century Detention Center (minimum security helping with society reentry), 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 (141 Mission Parkway near Gardner, Kansas) and Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Johnson County, 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 1 (9306 Bluejacket, Overland Park). Call 913-671-2369 for more info.

**PEACE OFFERING AND GLOBAL WITNESS (OCT. 3 ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY)** – 50% of this offering enables the Peacemaking Program to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the Presbyterian Church; 25% is given to our presbytery and synod for their peacemaking efforts; 25% is retained by Village Church for our own peacemaking ministry. Gifts can be made to Village Presbyterian Church. Note "Peace Offering" in the memo of your check.

## MUSIC

**KC SYMPHONY MOBILE MUSIC BOX CONCERT** – 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, Village on Mission South Parking Lot. KC Symphony musicians perform a free outdoor chamber music concert, weather permitting, with their new Mobile Music Box stage. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to experience live orchestra music with your family and friends.

## PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

**FAITH & GRIEF SUPPORT GATHERING OCT. 5** – Vicki Davis is the guest speaker at the next Faith & Grief Gathering at noon Tuesday, Oct. 5, in Friendship Hall. A boxed lunch is provided; you may eat it here or take it with you. Masks required for all. Register at [faithandgrief.org](http://faithandgrief.org) or call 469-251-9612.

**GROWING THROUGH GRIEF STARTS OCT. 6** – The last session of Growing Through Grief for 2021 will meet at 9:30 a.m. on five consecutive Wednesdays, Oct. 6-Nov. 3. This class is free and open to all. Call 913-671-2327 or email [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org) to register.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY **For all 20's and 30's**

**YA WELCOME NIGHT** – 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30. After a long (and continuing) season of pandemic, we need to see each other, and explore our new (almost furnished) YA Room! We'll have some snacks and reconnect after a season of being scattered. Come and see! Sign up online: [VillagePresYA.org/fall](http://VillagePresYA.org/fall).

**THEOLOGY THURSDAY** – Theology Thursday: Begins Oct. 7, 6-7:30 p.m. Fall series, "Wilderness." Wilderness is a theme in scripture, and in our lives. Often, it's a place we journey alone, but in these strange days we're having a sort of shared wilderness experience. Read more and sign up online: [VillagePresYA.org/fall](http://VillagePresYA.org/fall).

**MORNINGS WITH MOMS AND MINIS** – Begins Oct. 12, 9:30-11 a.m. Friends and faith for the journey are important. Mamas, bring your little ones or come alone. We'll have some breakfast together, and enjoy devotions and conversation. All young adult moms welcome! Sign up online: [VillagePresYA.org/fall](http://VillagePresYA.org/fall).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**JOIN US FOR ANY OF OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES** – No sign-up is required, masks required while in the building.

**SUNDAY SERIES** – 9:30 a.m. Youth Loft (Room 333) for middle & high school. **SNL** (high school youth group) – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sundays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333). **LOFTERNOONS** (middle school after school program) – 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Youth Loft (Room 333). **GPS** (middle school youth group) – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333). **EARLY TABLE** (morning devotional for high schoolers with food) – 7:30-8:15 a.m. Thursdays, in the Youth Loft (Room 333); rides to school available.

**SKI TRIP INFO MEETINGS TODAY** – To learn more about the 2022 Middle School and High School ski retreats, join us online via Zoom today at 10:45 a.m. or 5:15 p.m. Content will be the same for both meetings, so join the one that best fits your schedule. Open to parents and students. Email [youth@villagepres.org](mailto:youth@villagepres.org) for the Zoom link.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING** – Learn about the 2022 High School Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. Join us via Zoom at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3. Email [youth@villagepres.org](mailto:youth@villagepres.org) for the Zoom link.

## CURRENT 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
<b>Sept. 26</b>	<b>The Preservation of the Truth</b>
Oct. 3	The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World
Oct. 10	The Promotion of Social Righteousness

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## 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

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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](http://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.*