ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE

Today, we join 192 congregations across the United States in song. In 2007, Congress designated Sept. 25 as a national day of remembrance for victims of gun violence. Christian faith reminds us that peacemakers are blessed and will be called children of God. Today, we sing in remembrance of the victims of gun violence, but we also to pray for peace on earth, and dream of a world that steps out of the darkness of violence and into the light of peace.
Call to Worship

This is what we know:

the world is a hard place, and no one is exempt from pain.

This is what we trust:

this is a safe place to rest, and God is here with us.

This is what we hope:

the day is surely coming when all will be made right.

*Hymn, No. 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness
CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
sometimes you are are too unpredictable for us.
You are a raging flood, a burning bush, and a good shepherd.
You are a manger birth, an abandoned grave, and an open-ended promise.
While we know that this is good, good news,
we admit that sometimes a simple, reliable equation would be easier for us to bear.
So we add up accomplishments,
subtract shortcomings,
and divide ourselves,
forgetting that you are in the business of multiplying grace.
Remind us, O God, of your love,
which defies all reason, disregards all the rules, and destroys even death. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God’s Grace
*Response

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.
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

Let There Be Peace On Earth
words and music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson Miller; music: arr. Craig Courtney; solo: Katie Hull; Village Choir; Ian Wiseman, violin; Laurel Schiach, violin; Bruce Williams, viola; Kate Adams, cello

Please join in singing the melody when invited:

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Prayer for Illumination

Dee Couch (8 a.m.)
George Beaumont (9:30 a.m.)
Scott Stanley (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:31-45 (pg. 904)

Sermon

Don’t Be A Goat!
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of 1967

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds.
God created us to be in relationship.
God created us male and female and gave us life.
Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.
We are free to live our lives within the purpose of God:

to develop and protect resources for common welfare
and to work for justice and peace in society.
God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our lives: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. Already God’s reign is present in the world, stirring hope in us. With an urgency born of this hope, we apply ourselves to present tasks and strive for a better world.

*Hymn, No. 378  
**We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom**  
MERLE’S TUNE

Offertory  
**I Dream a World: Chorale**  
music: Dave Brubeck; words: Langston Hughes; Village Choir

*Response  
**Great God of Every Blessing**  
AURELIA

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. 79  
**Light Dawns on a Weary World**  
TEMPLE OF PEACE

*Benediction

*Response

Choral response  
Village Choir

*Postlude  
**Shall We Gather at the River**  
arr. Daphnia Portier

*All who are able may stand

© A-705103 for all hymns
Monday, Sept. 26  
Acts 1:6-11
The Book of Acts starts with the ascension of Christ. It says the disciples are all standing around gazing into the heavens as Christ is “lifted up.” Two men appear to them, in white robes, and say, “Why are you gazing into the heavens?” They tell them “he will come just as you saw him go.” I believe they are saying look for him rising among you. In your ministry together, Christ will continue to be lifted up. Look here, right in front of you!

Tuesday, Sept. 27  
Mark 10:13-16
Children come to things honestly, probably kicking and screaming, but honestly. Children are unafraid to ask questions, or put their fingers in sockets. As a child we allow ourselves to not know anything, and still expect to be important and loved. Entering into God’s reign as a child, probably points to “the least of these” concept. But what if it also means the whole of our lives matter? That a community of generations is important? What if it means children teach us who God is?

Wednesday, Sept. 28
“I have no greater joy than this, to hear how my children are walking in the truth.”
Every time I hear this one little verse in the Bible, I wonder what it is like to walk in truth as children of God. And then I thought about how we escort little people around. We go in groups, in order to not lose one another. We have our fieldtrip buddies, and we walk hand-in-hand. Walking in the truth of God’s promise is about going together and holding on to each other.

Thursday, Sept. 29  
John 1:35-51
There are three words in these verses that are hard to miss, “Come and see.” They happen twice. First, Jesus says those three words to two who are following him. And next, Philip, whom Jesus has invited to follow, says them to another “Come and see.” In our discipleship we must first “Come and see” for ourselves, and then we must invite others to do the same. Perhaps the invitation to “Come and see” is the first step to hearing Christ say, “Follow me.”

Friday, Sept. 30  
Romans 12:9-18
Paul is addressing a community that is dear to his heart and important to his own faith. That is one of the gifts of being in community, it makes our faith stronger. Paul is imparting to them the need for selfless love and mutual affection for one another. To strive to be a community of harmony, rather than harm or acts of retribution towards anyone. This is a passage we can all look to for hope.

Saturday, Oct. 1  
Hebrews 13:1-6
Paul gives us a few examples of what true hospitality and mutual love look like. He also informs us of the pitfalls that we place in our way of practicing such grace to others. To be a gracious host of mutual love is to get in the muckity-muck with someone we love. It means to experience their crisis as if it is our own. If we do so we may just entertain angels without knowing.
ABOUT TODAY’S MUSIC
The hymn Shall We Gather at the River has often been sung at funerals, the “river” supposedly referring to passing away. In fact, the hymn was written about better days of living, not heaven's relief. Shall we gather at the river, where we can “lay each burden down” and “our hearts quiver with the melody of peace,” not in death, but in life? Yes, we'll gather at the river! Yes, we'll reach the day, SOME day, when our swords will be beaten into plowshares, and our lives will be guided by love and respect for one another.

FALL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL
10.2.16  SUNDAY 5-7 P.M.
VILLAGE CHURCH NORTH PARKING LOT
LIVE MUSIC AND FIVE GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS

Please join us for the Service of Ordination for Amanda Mackey
2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2 • Village Church Sanctuary

Amanda is a member of Village Church and a recent graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She just answered a call as associate pastor of youth at Germantown Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Tenn. (outside of Memphis). Amanda’s former theology professor from Austin, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby, will be preaching at the service.

A reception will be held in the Welcome Center immediately following the ceremony.
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.

M.S. EVENT AT SKYZONE – Middle schoolers! We are meeting at SkyZone (Shawnee Mission Pkwy and Quivira) today from 1-3:30 p.m. Cost is $20. No need to RSVP, but you will need to sign a waiver either online (skyzone.com/kansascity) or your parent can fill one out when they drop you off.

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 GRADE new curriculum! 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.

CONNECT WITH 6TH GRADE – Fun and relevant discussions for today’s ‘tweens. Room 302. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

PARENTS OF 6TH GRADERS – Our first event is an overnight retreat at Heartland Center, Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

AARP 55 ALIVE DRIVING CLASS will be held on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 13 and 14, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Room 127. The cost is $15 if you are an AARP member; $20 for non-members, payable to AARP. Bring a brown bag lunch or eat out. To enroll, call Marianne at 913-671-2333.

Upcoming Village U classes:

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION – If you are interested in reading selections that stimulate your critical thinking, the Great Books Group will welcome you on the first Tuesday of each month. 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6. Room 127.

BREAKFAST AND BIBLE WITH YOUR BUDDIES – Join our senior pastor, the Rev. Tom Are, Jr. for a morning Bible study for men. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast, and Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from scripture. To make a reservation for breakfast, contact Marianne at marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Cost: $6. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, now through Nov. 15. Room 228.

SABBATH YOGA WEDNESDAYS – Join us after Wednesday night dinner for a relaxing session of gentle and restorative yoga with centering prayer meditation. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your own yoga mat. Katherine Caputo, instructor. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, now through Dec. 14. Rooms 307/309/311.

LAST ACTS OF LOVE: ENDING WELL: WHAT WILL THEY SAY AT MY FUNERAL? A conversation about what Presbyterians believe about death and what we do as a church family when death comes, including planning for a memorial service. Rev. Jenny McDevitt, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4. Room 230.

A TACTILE ADVENT – As we prepare for the season of Advent, how can we engage the familiar story with all of our senses. Have you smelled frankincense? Have you touched rough wood and thought about laying a baby in it? We will explore the familiar Advent story in a way that engages our senses and the Nativity story to experience the story in new and dynamic ways. Rev. Sally Wright, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Nov. 16. Chapel.

FALL ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES have begun. Check villagepres.org for more details.
CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER SEPT. 28 – Roasted chicken (GF), wild rice pilaf (V & GF), sweet potato casserole (V & GF). Each Wednesday, price is $7 for full buffet, $6 for salad bar and dessert. $3-children ages 3-10. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are required by noon every Monday. Just call Liz at 913-671-2359, email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners.html.

FALL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL – Join us from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, in the north parking lot of Village Church for our second annual Fall Food Truck Festival. Bring your family and your lawn chairs and come choose from five gourmet food trucks. We’ll also have live blues performed by the Prairie Earth Ensemble.

DINNER FOR 40s-50s – Village Church is offering a fun dinner opportunity for people in their 40s and 50s. We have reservations at Granite City, 15085 W 119th St., at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30. The reservation is under “Village Church Group, Liz Middleton.” Space is limited. RSVP to cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331.

LUNCH FOR 70s AND UP - You are invited to meet at Waldo Pizzeria at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6. Waldo Pizza is located at 7433 Broadway St. The menu offers three authentic styles of pizza as well as salads, sandwiches, pasta and gluten-free choices. The reservation is under “Village Church Group, Liz Middleton.” RSVP to Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Cool temperatures and warm soup - they just seem to go together on a fall day! The Food Pantry is asking for HEARTY soups! The supply is low at the Pantry, and the demand is always high. Please bring a couple of cans on each visit to the church. On Oct. 1, the Clothes Closet will begin accepting fall and winter clothing - clean, gently used and sized. Thank you.

PEACE OFFERING OCT. 2 – The Peace Offering is Sunday, Oct. 2 (World Communion Sunday). Money from this offering is used from peacemaking programs across PC(USA), in the Heartland Presbytery and at Village Church. White envelopes for this offering are in the hymnal slot in front of you.

STRUGGLING IN THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY DINNER – 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Friendship Hall, join us for Struggling in the Land of Opportunity dinner and forum. Tickets are $13 per person. Child care is available. For reservations, stop by the table in Friendship Hall from 9 a.m.-noon today. You can sign up to volunteer at signup.com/go/VPCserve. Registration deadline is Sept. 30.

VILLAGE SERVICE NIGHT – Join Village Church from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9, for Village Service Night. Participants will help pack hygiene kits to be sent to areas of need served by Heart to Heart International, assemble sack lunches for City Union Mission, create fleece blankets for the homeless and help the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership prepare for upcoming mission trips. All ages are welcome. Food is provided for all who participate. Child care is available. Sign up online at signup.com/go/VPCserve.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

KANSAS CITY WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT OCT. 9 – The first concert of the season, entitled “A Night at the Opera,” is at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, in the Village Church Sanctuary. Admission is free. Internationally known guest contralto, Qiulin Zhang, along with tenor Jacob Sentgeorge and baritone Ron Witzke, will perform selections from Carmen and other opera favorites.

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL OCT. 13 – Join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in the Village Chapel for a 30-minute recital with guest harpist Tabitha Reist Steiner. The program will include works for solo harp and accompanied works, with music by Ravel. The concert is free and open to the community.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

CAREER CONNECTIONS CLASS IS TOMORROW! – Looking for a new job? The Career Connections class can help you discover new ways to find that new position. Class is at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26, in Room 316. If you are interested in attending, contact Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327.
CENTERING PRAYER is a contemplative, silent prayer that offers a way to live out Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.” This prayer is intended to rest in the presence of God and deepen your relationship with Christ. If you’re seeking to strengthen your communion with the Holy Spirit and to listen for God’s will, join us. Meet in the chapel 11-11:30 a.m. every Monday. Contact Katherine at katherinebestcaputo@hotmail.com for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MISSION SEWING – Fall is here, and it’s time to think knitting and crocheting and sewing. We need hats, all sizes; mittens, all children’s sizes; baby hats (we have special yarn for these); and scarves, child and adult sizes (we have yarn for these). We also have at home projects such as cutting out items, sewing items, etc. Stop by the sewing room any Tuesday from 8 a.m.–3 p.m. For more information, call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515.

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT OKTOBERFEST – Come to WWS Oktoberfest by yourself, with a friend, date or spouse. Bring your favorite six pack of beer-three bottles to share and three to swap. You will go home with three new bottles to try. Appetizers will be served. RSVP to Shelby Krumm at shelbykrumm@yahoo.com. The celebration kicks off at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, at the home of Berent and Shelby Krumm.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

BIER AND BIBLE - Every Wednesday night, 7 p.m., KC Bier Co. – Every week this fall we’ll learn to read the Bible together, while continuing to grow in all that it means to be community. All 20s and 30s welcome!

MMPM – Midweek Morning Prayer for Mamas! Wednesday mornings, 9:30 a.m, Village Church Chapel. Every Wednesday morning this fall we’ll pray for each other, then join for coffee and convo. in the Cup! All 20s and 30s moms welcome!

SERVE: FALL SERVICE NIGHT - Sunday, Oct. 9, after The Gathering - For one night we’ll have community and world organizations in the building with projects they need hands to work on. Come and worship, then stay and serve! All ages welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft Room 333/332.

CHEER – High school youth group tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome for a night of discussion, amazing people and a great time!

GPS – Middle school youth group, meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us for a great night of people, games and conversation. We hope to see you there!

TWOSDAYS BEGIN OCT. 4 – Our after-school ministry for middle school students kicks off in just over a week. All 7th & 8th graders are invited to join us from 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons in the Youth Loft for fun and food!

DONATE A BOOK! • Today, Sunday, Sept. 25

benefiting Operation Breakthrough and Talk, Read, Play
Please bring your donation of a NEW book appropriate for children ages newborn - 5 years to the Village Commitment table in Friendship Hall. Cash donations accepted. Thank you!

Village Commitment
A Huge Thanks from the Pipe Organ Committee

Village Church, THANK YOU for your good Presbyterian muscle! More than 200 people came last Sunday to help unload Opus 22, and it couldn’t have been done without you. Our organ builders said that it’s never taken them so long to load a truck – and has never taken SO LITTLE time to unload it! In other words, you are rock stars.

The last shipment comes this week, and that truck will be unloaded by the organ builders, since it contains our precious (and heavy) pipes. Stay tuned – in a few weeks, our organ will sing her first song in her new home!

STRUGGLING IN THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Dinner and Forum
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11 | Friendship Hall
Reserve your seat by Friday, Sept. 30!

REGISTER AT VILLAGEPRES.ORG
NEW SERMON SERIES

Love Your Neighbor and Other Spiritual Truths

When Europe was falling apart in the 1940’s, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a little book called Life Together. It was an exploration of the fundamental “neighborly” or communal aspect of Christian faith. Sometimes we say that the love of Christ shows up in our hearts. A better way to say that is the love of Christ shows up in our relationships. We are part of many communities: family, church family, national community…the list goes on. Paying attention to this fundamental truth of Christian faith is what gives our faith energy and hope. But, because people are people, it is also why we need to time and again remind ourselves that Jesus calls us to love our neighbor.

Sept. 11   It is Not Good That the Human is Alone
Sept. 18   We Keep Bumping Into All Those Other Followers of Jesus
Sept. 25   Don’t Be A Goat!
Oct. 2     For Once, It’s All About You
Oct. 9     Blind Spots
Oct. 16    A More Perfect Union

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 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.