



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 19, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The story of Jesus and the children is beautiful and instructive. Told in three of the four gospels, parents are bringing children to Jesus so that he might lay his hands on them and bless them, but Jesus' disciples speak sternly to these parents and try to turn them away. They see blessing children as a waste of time. Jesus corrects his followers and tells them to let the children come to him because the kingdom of God belongs to children. It is a unique idea in the gospels – this notion that the kingdom of God belongs to anyone, let alone children. Theologian Robin Maas argues that only children are named as possessing God's kingdom. She believes this is because children seem to understand God in a special way.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father
arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

You came to us as a child, O God,

full of the hope that all children bring.

You came to us a child, O God,

so eager to trust and so delighted with wonder.

You came to us as a child, O God,

dependent upon us for every want and need.

So now we come to you as your children,

full of hope, eager to trust, and delighted with wonder.

Now we come to you as your children,

dependent upon you for our every want and need.

As the children of God, let us worship God.

*Hymn, No. 409 (v. 1-3)

God Is Here!
ABBOT'S LEIGH

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

We know what you desire for all children.

We know that you want all your children to laugh and love and learn and live.

Yet we confess that our world does not fully reflect what you desire.

We confess that too many children live desperate and defeated lives.

We confess that too many children experience poverty and pain and death.

Forgive us, O God.

Help us to recover our hope for your children's sake.

Help us to recover our courage for your children's sake.

Help us to recover our faith for the sake of all your children

and for the whole world. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Hymn, No. 582 (v.1)

**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.**

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (8 a.m.)

**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.**

Time with Children (9:30, 11 a.m.)

The Sacrament of Baptism (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Hymn, No. 482 (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Baptized in Water

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children, Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Tucker (8 a.m.)

Reagan Solenberger (9:30 a.m.)

Katie Hull (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:1-5 (pg. 895)

Anthem

O Praise the Lord, Who Made All Beauty (9:30 a.m.)

Hal Hopson; Morning Stars Choir

Walk Together, Children! (11 a.m.)

arr. Ken Berg; Alegría, Village Voices

Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:13-15 (pg. 896)

Sermon

Who is the Greatest in God's Kingdom?

Dr. Rodger Nishioka

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 627

I Love You, Lord
I LOVE YOU, LORD

Offertory

Children of Our God, Creator
arr. Eric Nelson; Village Choir

*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. 630 (v. 1,3,4 - All; v. 2 - Choir only)

Fairest Lord Jesus?
CRUSADERS' HYMN

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children (Traditional) (9:30 a.m.)
Prelude Choir
God His Own Doth Tend and Nourish (8,11 a.m.)
arr. Eric Nelson

*Postlude

Praeludium in E Minor
Nicholas Bruhns

*All who are able may stand

© A-705103 for all hymns

SERMON NOTES

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of November 20, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Dr. Rodger Nishioka 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, pray for the community around you, and pray for all of creation.

Monday, Nov. 20

1 Chronicles 16:16-34

David has established himself in Jerusalem and after the ark of the covenant, the holiest object for the Hebrew people, is brought to Jerusalem, he sings this marvelous song of thanksgiving. David's first act after coming to Jerusalem is to make a place for the ark of the covenant, the sign of God's faithfulness. His second act is to sing a song of thanksgiving. Surely we must follow in the same way. Once we recognize God's faithfulness, we must sing a song of thankfulness!

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Psalms 107

As in other songs of David, this psalm echoes the phrases of his song of thanksgiving from our reading in 1 Chronicles. This Psalm calls us to give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his steadfast love endures forever. This phrase appears numerous times in the Hebrew scriptures and especially in the Psalms. Psalm 107 is a recitation of how God has been faithful. Remember this phrase: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." Recite it throughout your day today.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Matthew 26:26-30

Matthew's gospel records the Lord's supper in a similar fashion to Mark and Luke. All three of the gospels tell us that Jesus gave thanks to God before sharing the cup with his disciples. As followers of Jesus, we give thanks in a similar way. Our giving thanks to God helps us remember that all gifts come from God and we are to respond to God with gratitude. A word of thanks before a meal does not have to be grand and should not be officious. The most important thing is that it be genuine and focus on God rather than ourselves.

Thursday, Nov. 23

Philippians 1:3-11

In the opening of Paul's beautiful letter to the believers in Philippi, he tells them how he thanks God every time he remembers them, constantly praying with joy in every one of his prayers for all of them. Imagine how the Christians in Philippi felt when they first heard this. The Apostle Paul is thanking God every time he remembers them, and he is constantly praying for them. On this day of Thanksgiving, give thanks as you remember faithful friends and family and pray for them with joy. Then tell them that you are so thankful for them, so they may share in your joy.

Friday, Nov. 24

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

These are instructions for how to live as members of a Christian community, and we would do well to live them. The verbs are instructive: respect, esteem, be at peace, admonish, encourage, help, be patient, pray and...give thanks in all circumstances. This call to give thanks in all circumstances does not mean that all circumstances will be easy or even good. Rather, it calls us to keep the focus on God even when we are struggling. This is a radical way of living, and it sets us apart as a witness to how the Holy Spirit is at work in us, even when we are hurting. Remember that God is able to do this in us so pray for that God-given ability to give thanks in all times.

Saturday, Nov. 25

Revelation 7:9-17

The Revelation to John that is recorded in this last book of the Bible includes this incredible vision of a multitude from every nation on the earth. They stand before God who is seated on the throne and before the lamb, Jesus Christ. Together with the angels and heavenly beings, they sing praises and glorify God and Jesus giving thanks for their salvation. As you are able, look to heaven and lift up your hands and say out loud, "Thank you, God!" What a marvelous way to end our week of thanksgiving!

FREE

**Adventure
Family
WORKSHOP**

3-5 P.M. SUNDAY, NOV. 26

Crafts for all ages, cookie decorating & more!

**Happy
Thanksgiving**

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Please note that Village Church will be closed Nov. 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



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 Jay Higdon by Ken Higdon.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY – Please welcome these newest members into our faith community as we celebrate the baptisms of the following children. At **9:30 a.m.:** Piper Erin Brune (Erica and Michael Brune, parents); Oakleigh Henry Daimler and Nolan Thorne Daimler (Laura and Thorne Daimler, parents); Anna Cate Gafford (Emily and Atlee Gafford, parents); Avery Jade Horigan (Kelley and Cole Horigan, parents); Delaney May Waldron and Paige Amelia Waldron (Nicole and Matt Waldron, parents). **11 a.m.:** Bridget Cathleen Arends (Meredith and Nate Arends, parents); Kellen William Imgarten (Meagan and Jeff Imgarten, parents); Claire Elizabeth Killough (Haley and Brian Killough, parents); Eleanor Grace Miller (Brooke and Scott Miller, parents); Finley Nell Potts (Kelsey and Whittaker Potts, parents); Graham Allen Thomas (Abbey and Drew Thomas, parents); Cecilia Alison Tyrrell and Abigail Lottie Tyrrell (Jo and David Tyrrell, parents); Jackson Jeffrey Winters (Megan and Jeff Winters, parents).

THE ROSE IS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE to remind us to celebrate and welcome the birth of one of our newest little ones among the Village Community: Calla Marina Alexander Svaty (Kimberly and Josh Svaty, parents).

WORSHIP BAGS are available for children to enjoy during worship. Please return the bags to the baskets located in the Narthex at the end of the worship service.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

TODAY IS FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me..." All children are invited to our Christ-centered, child-centered Sunday mornings.

BIRTH-6TH GRADE – Registration cards and classroom schedules are available at sign in desks outside of Rooms 107 and 307.

INFANTS-TODDLERS – Child care available for all three morning sanctuary services in Rooms 111 and 114.

PRESCHOOLERS – 9:30-10:30 a.m. Combined 2's Room 107 and 3's and 4's Room 106.

K-6TH GRADERS- KID'S KINGDOM SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30-10:30 a.m. Combined K-6 Room 309.

VILLAGE CHURCH WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL – Preschool Director Sarah McKee will host a "Preschool Information Coffee" for those considering enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 in Room 132. Please join us to learn more about our 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old programs. For more information, contact Sarah at 913-671-2338 or sarahmckee@villagepres.org.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

BEGINNER HULA HOOPING & HOOP DANCING CLASS – Bring a friend and try a fun new way to get a great cardio-vascular work-out with KC Hoop Girl, Sirena Beyer that will strengthen the core and burn calories. The hoops, music and fun are provided! Enter at the south side of the church and take the elevator to the third floor. Questions? Call 816-591-5186. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Thursday evenings in the Youth Loft.

Register for Village U classes at villagepres.org – or contacting Marianne at 913-671-2333 or marianne@villagepres.org.

HALLMARK CARDS EXHIBIT AT CROWN CENTER – For more than 100 years, Hallmark Cards has called Kansas City home. Joyce C. Hall, an 18-year-old entrepreneur, started the company in 1910 with a shoebox full of postcards. Today Hallmark creates greeting cards and many other products in 30 languages that reach 100 countries around the globe. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7. Cost for the bus is \$20 per person; participants pay for their own lunches.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES INCLUDE:

9:30 a.m.

FAITH JOURNEY – Beginning today the class will begin a study of Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity - Rediscovering a Life of Faith* in which he explores what he calls two paradigms for looking at our faith and how those can work together. Led by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH – The class has begun a series titled "Painting the Stars," a study and conversation focused on the intersection of science, faith, and religion. The class is taught by Diann Markley. The class enjoys thoughtful conversation. This study is DVD-based so each session will feature a clip as the basis for discussion.

VILLAGE FORUM–THE SEARCH FOR GOD–EVOLVING FROM SEARCH INTO THEOLOGY – Today, Michelle O'Neal and Henry Sewing, members of the Strategic Planning Committee, will lead a discussion about Village Church's new strategic framework. Room 127.

ADVENT CLASS 2017 – *Mary, Mary, What You Gonna' Call That Baby?* is a carol we sing during the Advent/Christmas season. In other texts it is Joseph who names the baby Jesus. Centuries earlier the prophet Isaiah did the same. Likewise, all of us have names for God just as did the earliest writers of scripture. Nov. 26-Dec. 17 participants will be engaged in study of sacred names with Rev. Jay McKell.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Happy Thanksgiving—no dinner on Nov. 22. Dinner resume Nov. 29.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – The distribution of the 650 Thanksgiving baskets was completed yesterday. Smiles abounded around the Food Pantry these past four days. Thank you for your donations of food to fill these baskets that will feed 500 families of the Pantry's clients (larger families received several baskets with their one turkey). The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving! Christmas decorations (no trees, please) are now being accepted at the Clothes Closet.

MUSIC MINISTRY

THE TIDINGS OF JOY CHILDREN'S CHORUS - It's not too late to sign up for the first annual Tidings Of Joy Children's Chorus (Ages 7-14)! Rehearsals begin Sunday, Nov. 26. Please email Will Breytspraak at william.breytspraak@villagepres.org for more information.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

ANNUAL POINSETTIA DELIVERY – It's the most wonderful time of the year to spread some Christmas cheer! If you can deliver a poinsettia (or two) to a member who cannot make it to church during the Advent season, come to the Welcome Center anytime between services on Sunday, Dec. 10. Poinsettias and instructions will be there waiting for you. Thank you for your caring gift of time.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT 4 P.M. DEC. 3 – The Christmas season is a joyful time, yet also a time we keenly feel the loss of a loved one. The Remembrance Service honors those we deeply miss. This special service includes prayers, music, reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God's holy Christmas promise: there's a light in this world that the darkness will never overcome. If your loved one passed away during 2017 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. If you would like to include any other names, please contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2367 or linda.alley@villagepres.org by tomorrow, Monday, Nov. 20.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT invite you to join us for this Tuesday morning tour of the famed Kansas City Roasterie at 1204 W. 27 St. at 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Nov. 28. Cost: \$5. Immediately afterwards head over to the Blue Bird Bistro for a bite with friends! Email shelbykrumm@yahoo.com with your RSVP by Nov. 20.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

ADULTING WITH JESUS – 6:30 p.m. Thursday nights at rotating locations - check the Village Church website for a list of places and dates. All invited. Pizza provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Join us for any of our weekly activities – all are welcome regardless of previous Village attendance and no sign-up is required. Check villagepresyouth.org for more details.

PROGRAM BREAK NOV. 19-25 – While schools are on Thanksgiving break our weekly programs will also be on break. Programs resume Sunday, Nov. 26.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (middle school and high school) – 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

SNL (high school youth group) – Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

TWOSDAYS (middle school after school program) – Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

GPS (middle school youth group) – Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

EARLY TABLE (morning devotional for high schoolers-with food!) – Thursdays, 7:30-8:15 a.m. at Zach and Meredith's house at 5401 W. 77th St., Prairie Village.

TRIPS – Registration is now open for our annual January Ski Trip and the Spring Break Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic! Come pick up a form in the Youth Loft or find them online at the address above.

Holiday Wreaths Distribution

Today and Nov. 26, the Boy Scouts of Troop 91 will be distributing the Holiday wreaths and garland that were ordered. You may pick up your order at the south entrance from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on either day. We will also have limited quantities of wreaths, swags, and garland for sale.

If you have an outstanding balance, you may pay when you pick up your order.

2018 Annual Fund Campaign - "Be generous with what God gave you." 1 Peter 4:10

Hope continue through generous commitments...

682 pledges received totaling \$2,781,103.

These generous supporters increased their giving by 11.3%.

Please return your completed commitment card by mail or online.

For questions, contact Molly at 913-671-2325 or molly.sirridge@villagepres.org.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials

You may purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one by sending a check for \$10 payable to Village Church. Clearly print the memorial name and send with your donation to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by Friday, Dec. 8. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Nov. 19 **Who is the Greatest in God's Kingdom?**
Nov. 26 Thank You

A Stranger Came to Town

This is a season of tradition. We read the same stories. We sing the same hymns. We light the purple candles. We kneel at the manger and we have learned the angels songs by heart. We walk this same journey because the love that fashioned the universe and its billions of galaxies has chosen, in grace, to take on skin and walk where we walk. The Word became flesh. He napped in a manger. He spoke with an accent, and had favorite foods and loved a good story. He was one of us. But he was also a stranger. His heart was bigger, his prayers were deeper, his spirit was freer. This strangeness was unsettling to some. It was magnetic to others. They discovered, and we continue to discover, that this stranger not only reveals truth about God, but he reveals the truth about us. A stranger came to town and sends us on a journey to find our way home.

Dec. 3 This is the Stranger's Town
Dec. 10 Finally Seeing What Has Been True All Along
Dec. 17 The Good News of the Metanoia Man
Dec. 24 Morning Worship, Lessons and Carols
 Evening Worship, You Do Not Have to Be Afraid Anymore

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Will Breytspraak, director of music ❖ Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care
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
Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care ❖ Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate
Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music ❖ Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship and endowments
Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries ❖ Deborah White, director of mission
Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries ❖ Ellen Wootton, interim director of children and family ministry
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 broadcast live at 8 a.m. on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.

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

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.