



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 26, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

"If the only prayer you ever said was 'thank you,' that would be enough."

— Meister Eckhart, 13th and 14th century philosopher,
theologian, and mystic

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Praeludium in G
Nicholas Bruhns

Call to Worship

Rev. Len Carrell

What brings us joy?

What slows us down?

What gives us hope?

What makes us think?

What invites us to wonder?

What makes us grateful?

Might it have something to do with the Holy One?

Let us gather our hearts together and worship God!

*Hymn, No. 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship
HOLY MANNA

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

You have given us more than we deserve,

and, in some ways, more than we know what to do with.

You have been embarrassingly generous to this church:

you have surrounded us with faithfulness

and gifted us with unending opportunity.

You have showered us in grace and filled us with song.

You have given us not only life, but also purpose.

There is nowhere we can go away from your presence.

When is the last time we stopped to say "thank you"?

Forgive us, O God, for all we have taken for granted,

and for all the times gratitude filled our hearts,

but never escaped our mouths.

Make us Thanksgiving people, this day and every day that follows. (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

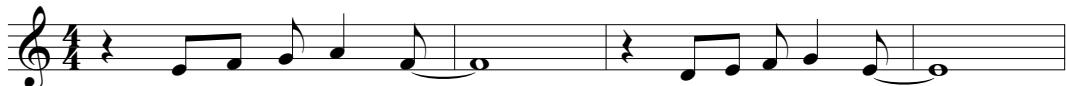
Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters (9:30 a.m.)

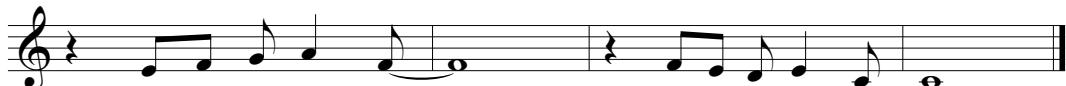
Earth Steward Recipients

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer



Change my heart, O God; _____ make it ev - er true. _____



Change my heart, O God; _____ may I be like you. _____

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

Bruce Williams (8 a.m.)

Larry Sneegas (9:30 a.m.)

Pam Hanson (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 17:11-19 (pg. 955)

Sermon

Thank You

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 644

Give Thanks, O Christian People
ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

Offertory

Amazing Grace

arr. Ryan Main; 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. 37

Let All Things Now Living
ASH GROVE

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Amen
Peter Lutkin

*Postlude

Mit Freuden Zart
Paul Laubengayer

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

SERMON NOTES

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of November 27, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Molly Ramsey, VOA ministry assistant, 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. 27

Psalm 62

The Psalmist reminds us that we find our rest in God, that our hope comes from the Lord. During this week between Thanksgiving and Advent, are you leaving time to rest? On Thanksgiving, we set apart a time to remember all that we are grateful for. A time to sing praises. A time to reflect on blessings. Let us also set aside time to rest in the One whose love is unfailing.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord, my soul. May these words of worship carry you through your day. Remembering to whom the designs of the world and the universe belong. Remembering that all of the things which may seem too heavy to carry, are never too big for God. Remembering that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5). Praise the Lord, my soul.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Psalm 147:1-11

How good it is, to sing praises to our God. Almost a week has passed since Thanksgiving, what new joys have come into your life during these six days? They may be so small, they may seem insignificant. They are not. When you put your hope in God's unfailing love, the seemingly little things become big things, by God's transformative love. Today, make a list of everything you're thankful for. Pray or sign that list to God. For how good it is, to sing praises.

Thursday, Nov. 30

Psalm 116

The Lord has not forgotten you. While there is always much to be thankful for, sometimes despair and grief are close to our hearts. The Psalmist reassures us, the Lord hears you. Just as we sing out with thanksgiving, let us cry out for comfort, for grace and for rest. Let this Psalm remind you that God has been with those who have suffered in the past and that God is with you now.

Friday, Dec. 1

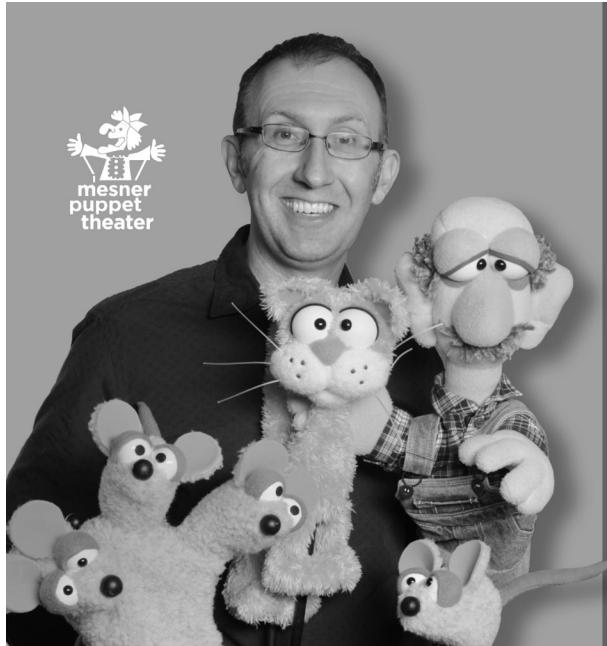
Psalm 63

You God, are my God. Today, focus your thoughts, not on who you are, but whose you are. You are a child of the living God. Your identity does not come from your job. It does not come from your family or your friends. It does not come from your income or your interests. It comes from the one who sustains. As you encounter your day, let this prayer be on your breath: You God, are my God.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Psalm 27

Tomorrow we enter into a season of hopeful anticipation. There are seasons of waiting in life. Some long, some short. Some rewarding and some disappointing. God has provided a perfect example of what a season of waiting might look like. In Advent, we will wait for the arrival of our King, the birth of our Savior. At the center of that waiting is Christ. Waiting is hopeful. Waiting is hope. Hope is waiting. Prepare us, God.



Mesner Puppet Theater presents

THE CAT CAME BACK

at VILLAGE ON MISSION

6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1

Friendship Hall

For ages 2-8

Admission is free!



Performed by the **VILLAGE CHOIRS & ORCHESTRA**
Introducing the **TIDINGS OF JOY CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

3&6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

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 Dorothy and Ken Thein by the family and in loving memory of Forrest "Frosty" Langdon by Carolyn Langdon.

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.

ADVENT FAMILY WORKSHOP - Don't miss our Village on Mission traditional family activity today from 3-5 p.m. in Friendship Hall to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Make your own Advent wreath, calendar and gifts for Christmas. There will be crafts for all age levels and, of course, cookie decorating, popcorn and festive music. Free and open to the community. Stay for The Gathering following the workshop.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

TODAY IS FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY when children and families worship together.

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 ON MISSION WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL INFORMATION COFFEE – Hosted by Preschool Director Sarah McKee 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.

MESSNER PUPPET THEATER'S THE CAT CAME BACK – 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, Friendship Hall. Children and Family Ministry invites you and your 2-8-year old children to introduce your friends and neighbors to Village Church by attending this free event.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

TECH TALK WITH TONY – Join Tony Liu as he leads a demonstration and discussion of the Mozilla and Chrome web browsers. If you use an Apple or Windows computer/laptop, tablet, or mobile phone, you can use the same web browser. We will discuss how to sync web tools, bookmarks, and browsing history across your devices. This session will be from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Room 316.

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, Sireenna 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 – The class is studying 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 is studying "Painting the Stars," a study and conversation focused on the intersection of science, faith, and religion. Taught by Diann Markley. This study is DVD-based so each session will feature a clip as the basis for discussion.

GROWING TOGETHER class is for adults in their 40's and 50's who are interested in growing together in context of their families. Growing Together welcomes anyone who is looking for opportunities to grow using Christ's principles as we apply Jesus to our lives today. Join us as we study the Book of Acts. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Room 124.

ADULT FORUM CLASS – Every Christmas we sing Isaiah's words about a "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace." Few pieces of music stir our hearts and strengthen our faith more than these. But do they actually point us to Jesus? If so . . . or if not . . . what do these names have to say about Jesus? What can we learn about him from them? Join Rev. Jay McKell for this week's reflections at 9:30 a.m. in the Forum, Rooms 126 and 127.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Our menu for Nov. 29 is baked Parmesan tilapia, Athenian orzo (with tomatoes, spinach, feta cheese), fish nuggets, vegetable. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. Full meal with salad bar and dessert is \$7. Salad bar and dessert is \$6. Children ages 4-10 are \$3 and children age 3 and under are no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon tomorrow.

JOINING VILLAGE CHURCH – Village welcomes **new members** every other month at a special Sunday luncheon. The upcoming dates are Dec. 3, 2017; Feb. 4, March 25 and June 10, 2018. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for information.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

2017 EARTH STEWARD AWARDS – Today at the 9:30 a.m. service, the Environmental Action Committee of Village Church named Nicola Juricak and Sallie Veenstra as recipients of this year's Earth Steward Awards. The Earth Steward award recognizes and honors members of the Village family who practice, model and teach faithful and responsible stewardship of God's Creation. The committee recognizes these persons as "Green Saints" among us who demonstrate exceptional earth consciousness in their thinking and adopting sustainable practices in their everyday life. For more information about the work of the Environmental Action Committee, please contact Jerry Rees at reesveenstra@aol.com.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Thanksgiving is behind us, and Christmas is ahead. The Clothes Closet is accepting Christmas decorations, (no Christmas trees) which are always a treat for the clients of the Pantry and Closet. There is a need for blankets, winter coats, hats and mittens, scarves and gloves. The Food Pantry is asking for canned fruit - such a popular item for winter with not much fresh fruit available.

DIAPERS IN DECEMBER – Beginning at this afternoon's Advent Family Workshop, please donate diapers for the Village Food Pantry families. Sizes Newborn and Adult L and XL are most needed, but all are appreciated. Collection location is at exit door nearest Room 114 and the nursery. Children and Family Ministry thanks you and will assist with any questions.

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 today. Please email Will Breytspraak at william.breytspraak@villagepres.org for more information.

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL - Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, when soprano Kate Breytspraak will present a recital of Christmas and seasonal favorites in the Village on Mission Chapel.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

POINSETTIAS PROVIDE CHRISTMAS CHEER – 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 any time 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 IS NEXT SUNDAY – At 4 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 3, we will remember and honor loved ones 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE – Village nurses who do blood pressure on Sunday mornings are making a change starting in December to only the first Sunday of every month. The next date will be Dec. 3.

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.

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 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. today. 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

If you have not had time to complete your 2018 pledge, please consider doing it now. Everyone's commitment added together, informs the budget committee and the Session on how best to plan for 2018.

Hope continue through generous commitments...

791 pledges received totaling \$3,217,571.01.

These generous supporters increased their giving by 11.1%

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.

Village on Antioch Family Decorating Day

Join us at Village on Antioch the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3, to "deck the halls" and prepare the way for Christmas! We'll gather in Fellowship Hall following 9:30 a.m. worship to create ornaments, make family Advent wreaths and help decorate VOA for the season. All ages and all people invited. A continental breakfast will be provided. Sign up to bring Christmas cookies to share at villageantioch.org/events.

NEW SERMON SERIES

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.