



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 27, 2016 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

From the earliest days of the church this First Sunday of Advent was like New Years Day. On the church's worship calendar, we begin again the journey that takes us from Advent, through Christmas, to remember Jesus' baptism and ministry, the painful final week and crucifixion. When it seemed that the journey had come to an end, Easter brings new life. There is Pentecost as the Spirit of God breathes life into the church, and there is the long walk of striving to be the church in God's world. So Advent begins with this question: what do we expect from the journey?

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude *Wir Schon Leuchtet der Morgenstern (How Brightly Beams the Morning Star), BuxWV 223*
by Dieterich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

The angels say it all the time:

"Do not be afraid."

We say it every week:

"The Word of our God shall stand forever!"

The promise of God is sturdy and strong.

It holds us together when the world is falling apart.

It is our help in ages past.

It is our hope for years to come.

Therefore, with trust and confidence,
with patience and courage,

we are waiting for the Lord.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Roslinde Rivera, Jee-Yeun Kim (8 a.m.)

Randy, Pam, Aiden and Radley Brown (9:30 a.m.)

Ken, Heather, Bria and Jilli Foley (11 a.m.)



Advent Prayer

adapted from words by Howard Thurman

We light candles this Advent.

Candles of joy despite all the sadness.

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

Candles of courage where fear is ever present.

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.

**Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire our living.
O Lord, may these candles burn all the year long. Amen.**

*Hymn, No. 105

People, Look East
BESANÇON

*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
Forgive us for the times we are too afraid to hope,
too tired to dream,
too angry to listen,
too wounded to trust,
too certain to be surprised.
Kindle in us a renewed sense of faith.
Lift our faces to look for your light. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Borthwick (8 a.m.)
Kevin Hennessy (9:30 a.m.)
Katherine Caputo (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36 (pg. 959)

Sermon

What Are You Waiting For?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 110

Love Has Come
BRING A TORCH

Offertory

Lion and Oxen Will Feed In The Hay
music: Michael Connolly; Village Choir

*Response

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

(At the indication of the pastor, we will all be invited to partake of the bread together, giving visible expression to the unity we share as Christ's body. You are invited to partake of the cup as it is served to you.)

Prayer of Response

*Hymn, No. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS

*Benediction

*Response

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Postlude

Rejoice! Rejoice!
by Daphnia Portier

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of November 28, 2016)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt and are an offering 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 and our mission. Pray for God's world.

Monday, Nov. 28

Isaiah 1:10-20

Isaiah shows up time and time again during Advent. His words are the source of some of our deepest comfort and most hopeful dreams. These words, however, are harsh. He has a difficult message to convey, and he knows the people will resist. As we begin Advent this year, consider this: what in your life or your community might cause the prophets to speak sternly in your presence? In this season of preparation, how might you use that insight to make ready the way for the Christ child?

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Isaiah 1:21-31

Isaiah's rough message continues. We must always remember, however, that the Word of God always springs from love. God wishes for us to change our ways because God loves us and wants all good things for us. We must also remember, though, that we are not God. If this sort of language is hard to receive, how might that inform the way you communicate with others when hard conversations occur?

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Isaiah 2:1-4

The first words of hope begin to spring forth from the prophet. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." In other words, we'll understand that someday, we'll feed each other, rather than fight each other, and we'll heal each other, rather than hurt each other. How might you contribute to this holy vision today?

Thursday, Dec. 1

Isaiah 2:5-22

How quickly comfort turns back to challenge. It's a bit wearying to read day after day, isn't it? If we are being honest, it's a bit wearying to live this way day after day, too. How quickly we place our trust and our value in idols. (And please note: idols can be status, reputation, and achievements just as easily as they can be golden calves.) What idols call to you and ask you to bow down to them? Don't be ashamed — we all have them. The important thing is that we don't give into them. Today, pray for God to give you strength.

Friday, Dec. 2

Isaiah 3:1-4:1

Are you still reading? Good. Has the Isaiah grabbed your attention yet? Good. The prophet has to shout loudly because there are so many competing voices in this world. Yet this passage concludes: "Take away our disgrace." The prophet's job is to point toward God's promised day. It is surely coming. This lament is not an academic exercise, or just a drill. God's lament is real. It must be, for God's promise is real, too. Today, pray for God to help you trust that promise.

Saturday, Dec. 3

Isaiah 4:2-6

Speaking of God's promised day... "On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious," and there will both shade and shelter. While Isaiah urges us to change our worst ways, he also reminds us of the respite God can provide when life lashes out at us. What challenges will you face this month? Today, pray for God to bring you healing and hope.

The 16th Annual
TIDINGS OF
JOY

A Celebration of the Season's Most Beautiful Music
Performed by the Village Church Choirs & Orchestra

3 & 6 P.M. SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 2016

Retiring Offering to Benefit Haitian Christian Mission

Our 16th Annual "Tidings of Joy" concert features some of the greatest music of the season performed by the Village Choir, Alegría, the Village Chamber Choir and the Village Orchestra.

You'll hear carols and Christmas classics, in addition to selections from Handel's *Messiah*, concluding with a joyful "Hallelujah" chorus. The program will also include songs originally performed by Pentatonix (the wildly popular acapella group), as well as a thrilling rendition of *O Holy Night* and *Joy to the World*. There will be opportunities for the entire family to sing along. Admission is free.

Thank you for your commitment to the 2017 annual commitment campaign!

If you have not yet completed your commitment card and sent it in, please do so now! Your gift makes a difference.

We are asking everyone to complete a commitment form and consider an increase of 15% in giving this next year as our operating budget, our staff, and our vision for the future is in need of your help.

An easy way to make your commitment is to go online to www.villagepres.org, click on Giving and look under Ways to Give to find Continue to Commitment Form. You can also mail in your annual commitment card or turn in a pledge card to Molly Sirridge at the church.

We are so very grateful for your continued and faithful support for Village Church. Village is brimming with amazingly generous families!

~Your Village Commitment Committee

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.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 91 HOLIDAY WREATHS AND GARLAND PICKUP TODAY - Come to the south entrance from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to pick up your previously ordered holiday wreaths and garland. We have limited quantities of extra wreaths, swags and garland for sale.

ADVENT FAMILY WORKSHOP - 3-5 P.M. TODAY IN FRIENDSHIP HALL - Don't miss our traditional family activity. Make your own Advent Wreaths 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. Everyone is welcome to join us for The Gathering at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OUT & PAUL MESNER PUPPETS ON FRIDAY, DEC. 2 - If you haven't reserved a spot for Christmas Night Out, you can still plan on a fun-filled night with a special appearance of the Paul Mesner Puppets, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Admission is free. Show is suited for children ages 2-8.

6TH GRADE GOES ICE SKATING AT CROWN CENTER, SUNDAY, DEC. 4 - Email Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org for more information.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON DEC. 14 - Children in grades 4, 5 and 6 look for information to be emailed to you or in children's Sunday School classrooms. There will be one rehearsal from 1-2:35 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11. Email either jenny.hull@villagepres.org or Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org.

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. **Club V6 (6th Grade)** – Relevant discussions for today's 'tweens. Room 302. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Upcoming Village U classes:

THE KINGS VS. THE SHEPHERDS - The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell different stories about the birth of Jesus. The wise men only appear in Matthew and the shepherds only appear in Luke. Why is that? In these three sessions, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will examine both the familiar and perhaps the unfamiliar components of these two stories comparing and contrasting them with one another. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7-21, in Room 127.

GOD IN THE ARTS: HAMILTON AND RENT - *Hamilton* is a story of our founding fathers told in an urban musical style with the entire cast being of mixed race and ethnic diversity. Before *Hamilton* another show, *Rent*, took the nation by storm twenty years earlier. Both address the challenges and the terrors of their time. Rev. Len Carrell will look at each of these shows and the theological marks they have left on our world. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 14 & 21, in Room 126.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES meet at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Check villagepres.org for more details.

VILLAGE FORUM SUNDAY MORNING CLASS - Today, Dr. Rodger Nishioka begins teaching an Advent series that will conclude on Dec. 18. Facilitated by Gus Breytspraak. 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 126 and 127.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER NOV. 30 – Spinach enchiladas, beef enchiladas and pinto beans. 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. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RECYCLING DRIVE-NOW-JAN. 8 - The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church is once again partnering with Southeast Enterprises to recycle Christmas lights. Starting today and running through Sunday, Jan. 8, please bring your old or broken Christmas lights to Village Church and place them in the barrels that are located inside the north and south entrances of the church. Call Gary Tegtmeier at 913-362-8596 if you have questions.

EAC EVENT - The Environmental Action Committee is co-sponsoring a presentation about "How Climate Change Affects the Developing World." At 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, in Room 127, Dr. Rick Randolph (chief medical officer of Heart to Heart International) will discuss how and why climate change effects the developing world differently than the developed world.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – During the month of December, the Food Pantry is asking for canned meals: ravioli, spaghetti, canned salmon and chicken (there is an abundance of tuna already), tamales, etc. The Clothes Closet is accepting SMALL Christmas decorations. Used Christmas trees cannot be accepted because of lack of display space, but lights and ornaments are always appreciated by the clients. They love finding "that treasure" that will brighten up their home for the holidays.

O CHRISTMAS TREE...O CHRISTMAS TREE - A Village tradition, our Hat and Mitten Trees return for the holiday season. From Dec. 2-25, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. You will find the trees located at the south entrance to the church and in the Welcome Center. The Pantry serves 500 households a month and your contribution will literally help spread the warmth of the season to many of these families. Contact Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL - Join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Village Chapel for our next Second Thursday Recital. Pianist Karen Kushner will play a 30-minute program of Chopin. Karen Kushner is active as a piano soloist and chamber musician who has toured and performed internationally.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY – Join us at 6:30 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Sanctuary to thank God for those 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.

POINSETTIAS PROVIDE CHRISTMAS TIME CHEER - If you would like to take a poinsettia to a member who cannot make it to church during the Advent season, please come to the Welcome Center anytime between services next Sunday, Dec. 4. Choose a card with a name and address, pick up a poinsettia, and deliver it between Dec. 4-7. Feel free to deliver more than one!

STEPHEN MINISTRY IS HERE FOR YOU - If the holidays are especially difficult this year, consider receiving support from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential care to individuals who could use some help navigating some of life's harder moments. Contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347 or len.carrell@villagepres.org.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

BIER AND BIBLE – Every Thursday 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!

MORNING PRAYER AND BIBLE FOR MOMS! – 9:30 a.m. Wednesday mornings, in the Chapel. We'll pray for each other, then learn a little about the Bible together. How do you teach this book to kids, when we know we don't know enough about it ourselves? Let's learn together. All 20s and 30s moms welcome!

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at KC Bier Company. Wear your best Christmas sweater and brush up on your Christmas trivia. Admission requires one package of diapers, to be donated to Happy Bottoms (provider of free diapers to those in need!). Child care available at Village Church with reservation by Dec. 5. [Signup.com/go/VillagePresYA](https://signup.com/go/VillagePresYA).

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – High school youth group does not meet tonight due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We'll be back next week on Sunday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hope to see you then!

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 p.m. Join us for a great night of people, games and conversation. We hope to see you there!

TWOSDAYS – All 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us from 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons in the Youth Loft for fun and food!

Support Village just by shopping AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that offers the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by you.

When shopping Amazon this holiday season, just log into smile.amazon.com to shop and pick United Presbyterian Church in the USA Village United Presbyterian Church as your charitable organization and in return, Village Church will receive a donation from AmazonSmile Foundation. It's that easy!

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials

A poinsettia that decorates the church this Advent season may be purchased in memory of a loved one. Make your check (\$10) payable to Village Church, clearly printing the memorial name with your donation. Send to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by Friday, Dec. 9. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.

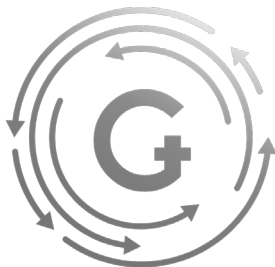


UPCOMING VILLAGE CHURCH ADVENT ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14, IN FRIENDSHIP HALL – Chef Emily and her culinary team will create a scrumptious hotel-style buffet including a carving station, tossed salad, cheese, fresh fruit and assorted cheesecakes. Cost is \$7 a person, \$3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by Sunday, Dec. 11, to 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org. Enjoy Christmas caroling from 6-6:30 p.m.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14, IN THE SANCTUARY
See the greatest story ever told through the eyes of the children at Village. Come for Wednesday Night Dinner, and stay for the pageant directly following.

VCCFDC PANCAKE DINNER WITH SANTA – 6 P.M. FRIDAY, DEC. 16, IN FRIENDSHIP HALL – The Village Church Child & Family Development Center will host its annual "Pancake Dinner with Santa" at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall. Chris Cakes will be serving up all-you-can-eat pancakes. Get your child's picture taken with Santa. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children age 2 and up. Children under 2 eat free. Contact Linda Harmon at 913-671-2310 or linda.harmon@villagepres.org for tickets. Come to the Sanctuary at 5 p.m., and enjoy the preschoolers' version of the Christmas Story.



Tonight The Gathering will be held at 5 p.m.
in the Sanctuary.

THE GATHERING
AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO WORSHIP

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

What Are You Waiting For?

The Advent season is a season of waiting. We will wait in lines and we will wait in traffic. That's part of the season. But the spiritual waiting that we do is different. The waiting we do as people of faith is determined by our hope. And waiting in line is passive, but Christian waiting is active. It takes all you have. So, what are you waiting for? For what do you hope?

Nov. 27	What Are You Waiting For?
Dec. 4	It Is the Little Things that Matter
Dec. 11	A God Who Knows Your Name
Dec. 18	A God Who Knows Their Name
Christmas Eve	So, this is what we look like
Christmas Day	The Songs of Christmas

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.