SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 2, 2018 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE

Today we begin the Gospel Writers Tour of Homes. We will be visiting Mark’s house today. We will have to teach Mark the Christmas carols and tell him our favorite moment in the Christmas story, for he apparently knows nothing of Jesus' birth. But if you need to know where the Son of God can be found in this world, Mark’s house is the place you want to be.
GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (8 a.m.)
by Egil Hovland

From *Four Spanish Carols: “A La Nanita Nana” & “Cold December’s Winds”* (9:30, 11 a.m.)
arr. Dale Ramsey; Village Brass

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

There is a story to tell in this place.

*It is a story of hope,*
*a story of wonder,*
*a story of abundant life.*

It is a holy story,
for it is the story of God’s love,
*and it is a story of good news,*
*for God reveals a holy love for all creatures.*

This is God’s story.

*This is our story.*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Sarah, Justen, Harper & Campbell McKee (8 a.m.)
Dortha Hargadine (9:30 a.m.)
Katie, Jason & Harry Montgomery (11 a.m.)

Response

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.*
*Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.*
*People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Hymn, No. 88 (v.1,6,7) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL
*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
Your promises continue to call us in hope.
Strengthen us by Your grace,
that we may stand tall in faith,
greeting each day with confidence in Your love. (Silent Prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response (from Hymn, No. 113)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Passing of the Peace

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination
Bruce Williams (8 a.m.)
Sarah Dornbusch (9:30 a.m.)
Charles Schultz (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading
Mark 1:9-12 (pg. 910)

Sermon
Christmas at Mark's House
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

*Hymn, No. 138

Who Would Think That What Was Needed
WHITE ROSETTES

Offertory
He Watching Over Israel
music: Felix Mendelssohn; Village Choir
*Response (from Hymn, No. 145)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

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. 147 (v.1,4,5)  

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

*Benediction
*Benediction Response

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

*Postlude

He is Born (8 a.m.)
by Richard Hudson

From Four Spanish Carols: “Fum Fum Fum” & “Song of the Wise Men” (9:30, 11 a.m.)
arr. Dale Ramsey

*All who are able may stand
© A-705103 for all hymns

ABOUT TODAY’S BRASS MUSIC

Today’s Prelude and Postlude are carol arrangements by Village Church member, Dale Ramsey. Originally set for only five brass players and percussion, he expanded the arrangement to include the full Village Brass. Though these four carols are traditional, they are less familiar to most of us. The styles include simple folk melodies, a Samba, a lyric ballad and a robust "troubadour" song.

Trumpet: Stan Chappell, Chris Kohl, Daniel Kreienheder, Matt LaMar, Mark McDonald
Horn: Lauren Beck, Lindsey Blackburn, Kirk Rush, Lisa Rush
Trombone: April Booth, Dave Groebe, Kerry Kinkelaar, John Porter, Sandy Weidman
Euphonium: Julie Kaplan, Freddy Morado
Tuba: Buck Buchanan

IN THE WELCOME CENTER

The Liturgical Art Committee has created a “Gospel Writers Tour of Doors” in the Welcome Center. Each door represents the unique holiday perspectives of each Gospel Writer. Christmas decorations can vary as widely as the people who hang them, as can our experiences of this season. Maybe these doors are like our hearts - how might you adorn your heart this Advent and Christmas season?
THE CHURCH’S BOOK (Week of December 3, 2018)

The following daily Bible readings were written by the Rev. Zach Walker 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, Dec. 3**

*Kings 19:1-15*

These verses speak of a time when Elijah was on the run, feeling broken, and desperately seeking God’s presence. There are times in any week when we are in need of that mighty, yet still, small voice that is God’s presence in the midst of our brokenness. How will you seek to hear God’s voice today?

**Tuesday, Dec. 4**

*Acts 16:11-15*

Paul, among many other things, was a traveler. He had a passion for going to new places and encountering new people for the sake of Christ. While we aren’t all adventurous travelers like Paul, how do you encounter new and different people in your day-to-day life? And how do you bring the Good News of love and compassion into their lives?

**Wednesday, Dec. 5**

*Mathew 26:26-30*

It’s easy to overlook how often Christ gave thanks; in these verses of the Last Supper before he is betrayed, Christ gives thanks twice. One can’t help but wonder what, on this night of all nights, Jesus offered up as thanks. It can be a challenge to give thanks in dark times, but developing a deep sense of gratitude can help us stay afloat in those times.

**Thursday, Dec. 6**

*Colossians 2:6-7*

Paul encourages the Colossians, and us, to be rooted and built up, abounding in thanksgiving. In what ways must we recognize God’s love for us in order to accomplish this? Spend some time reflecting on what it means that God loves you. How do you return that love?

**Friday, Dec. 7**

*Psalm 51*

Brokenness comes in many different forms. Sometimes it is not the brokenness of the surrounding world that harms us as much as our own inner brokenness. This psalm reaches out to God in honest brokenness and with an open desire for God to heal.

**Saturday, Dec. 8**

*Luke 6:20-26*

We can read the list in these verses both literally and figuratively/spiritually. As you read the list of blessings and woes, with which ones do you identify? For those that you don’t, why not? What might these lists instruct you to pay attention to as you strive to respond to Christ’s call?
Discover Village Information Center
A place for you to connect and ask questions. You’re invited to stop by our Discover Village desk, between worship services, at the north Welcome Center entrance. Hosts will be available at the desk every Sunday morning; a place where you can share conversation and enjoy a cookie. We look forward to meeting you!

Support Us When You Shop This Christmas!
As you sit down to do your shopping online, check out, smile.amazon.com. When you log in, choose United Presbyterian Church in the USA Village United Presbyterian Church. You’ll get great deals and Amazon will send us a donation.
TODAY AT VILLAGE

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Refreshments are available in Friendship Hall following the worship service.

JOIN US FOR THIS AFTERNOON’S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – If you are missing a loved one, come to the Village on Mission Sanctuary at 4 p.m. today to take part in our annual Remembrance Service. Together we will give thanks for loved ones during times of quiet reflection, candle lighting, prayers and song. Together we will witness the proclamation of God's holy Christmas promise that there's a light in this world the darkness will never overcome. When parking, please choose the north parking lot.

NEW TO US? Village Presbyterian Church is a family of faith actively shaped by the life of Christ to love one another, providing leadership for the transformation of our communities and serving the world. We are a Presbyterian (USA) family of faith that is inclusive, generous and welcoming of all people. Village is one church worshiping at two campuses: Village on Mission (6641 Mission Road in Prairie Village) and Village on Antioch (14895 Antioch Road in Overland Park). If you would like a tour of Village on Mission, contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331.

JOINING VILLAGE CHURCH – Village receives new members every other month at a special Sunday lunch. The next joining date is Sunday, Dec. 9. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331 for info.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

TECH TALK WITH TONY - Join us to discuss ways to use your Smart TV smarter. Learn how to view “over the air” free TV programs; watch live streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime or YouTube; internet browsing, check online email or use your web-based calendar with the Smart TV browser; and enjoy music, pictures or video on your home computer. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, in Room 316.

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday classes include:

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH – MARY’S STORY – The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "A young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." Christian tradition identified that young woman as Mary, the mother of Jesus. This class, led by Rev. Dwight Tawney, will explore the rich outgrowth of Christmas stories that surround Mary and the family of Jesus. Today, Dec. 9 and 16. Room 15.

VILLAGE FORUM – Today, Dec. 9 and 16, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will teach about the Spirituality of Aging. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in May of 2017 there were 47.8 million Americans age 65 and older comprising 15 percent of the total population. By 2060, the Census Bureau projects 25 percent or one in four Americans will be age 65 and older. So, as we age, how do we experience the presence of God? How do our spirituality and religious practice change over time? On Dec. 23, Maryanna Adelman will lead a discussion on contemporary Jewish holiday practices, focusing on the weekly celebration of Shabbot and the "minor" holiday of Hanukkah. Room 126.

10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday class:


CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

ALL SERVICES–CHILD CARE – Infants through 3-year-olds are welcome in Rooms 114, 111 and/or 107.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:25-10:30 a.m. – 2 to 4-year-olds/Pre-K—Preschool Sunday School meets on the first floor. Registration and age specific room assignments are posted outside Room 107. K-6th grade—Kids’ Kingdom Sunday school meets on the third floor. Registration and grade specific room assignments are posted outside Room 307. Room information is also posted outside Room 207.
MORNING STARS – 3-year-olds through 6th graders are welcome to join and sing. We meet from 10:30-11 a.m. Angel Choir (3 to 4-year-olds) meet in Room 203; Prelude Choir (K-2nd grade) meet in Room 201; Hallelujah Choir (3rd-6th grade) meet in Room 204. Pick up for all children is on the 2nd floor.

BAPTISMS and NEW BABIES – The next baptism dates are Jan. 20 and March 17. An education class is offered for members who are new to Village baptism. Share news of your new baby so we can welcome and commemorate the new family member's arrival. Call 913-671-2350 or email kate.ruecker@villagepres.org.

PUPPET SHOW BY PICCADILLY PUPPETS – Join us in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 7, for a family-friendly show, full of holiday goodness as sweet as sugar. The show features Belinda Baker, who makes a special wish and bakes a boy made of gingerbread. Then, “The Gingerbread Boy” makes himself a sister and silliness ensues. Catch them if you can! Free and open to the public.

DIAPERS IN DECEMBER – Children & Family Ministry is once again collecting disposable diapers throughout the month of December to benefit the Food Pantry. The greatest need is of newborn and Size 1 infant diapers and Size Large/XL Adult diapers. Drop off your diapers under the Hat and Mitten trees at the south entrance or in the Welcome Center. There is also a crib outside the second floor Children's Library for diaper donations.

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION COFFEE – Please join Village Church on Mission Preschool Director, Sarah McKee, for a Preschool Information Coffee from 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, in Room 133. Come learn more about Village Church on Mission Preschool in preparation for the 2019-20 school year. Child care will be provided. Contact Marjean at 913-671-2322 or marjean@villagepres.org to make child care reservations.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – The menu for Dec. 5 is taco buffet; hard and soft beef and veggie tacos and Spanish rice. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet 5:30-6:30 p.m. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & dessert is $6. Children ages 4-10 are $3 and age 3 and under are free. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org to make your dinner reservation by noon tomorrow.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – Come celebrate the holidays with friends at the Wednesday Night Dinner Christmas meal at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. Cost is $7 a person, $3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by calling 913-671-2359 or emailing liz.middleton@villagepres.org by noon Monday, Dec. 10.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – The Food Pantry is requesting pasta and pasta sauces (all varieties) during the month of December. These items are not readily available from Harvesters, but much desired by the clients. Bibles for adults and children and inspirational books for the Christmas season are also being requested. The Clothes Closet is asking for winter coats - gently used and clean - in all sizes. Thank you.

DON’T FORGET TO DROP OFF YOUR GIFTS – If you adopted an Operation Breakthrough Star family for Christmas or purchased a gift for the holiday store, don’t forget to drop off your gifts to the Operation Breakthrough truck parked in the Village south parking lot during the morning of Dec. 9. If you miss the truck, you can deliver your gifts down to Operation Breakthrough at 31st and Troost. Gifts are distributed to families during the week of Dec. 10. Contact Ann Colston, 913-722-0165 or Marilyn Borel, 913-708-1917.

MUSIC MINISTRY

TE DEUM CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENTS “PEACE & JOY” - 7 P.M. MONDAY, DEC. 3 – Join us in the Village on Mission Sanctuary for a thoughtfully planned selection of a cappella gems that are fresh, festive and beyond the seasonal standards. The program includes settings of carols by Jocelyn Hagen, Susan LaBarr and Sofia Söderberg, as well as works by Walton, Poulenc, Tavener and Pärt. Tickets are $15 per person. (available at the door or at www.te-deum.org).
SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL DEC. 13 – We invite you to join us for Second Thursday Recital at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary featuring guest organist Kurt Knecht. Kurt is the organist at St. Paul’s Episcopal in Kansas City. He has been a featured soloist with groups ranging from Smokey Robinson to The Florida Orchestra. Kurt regularly appears as a concert organist and collaborative pianist.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES – Village Voices and ALL alumni are invited to sing for the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Rehearsal begins at 10:15 p.m. in Room 14. Alumni can sit in the choir loft or with their families and come up for the two anthems. We look forward again to this annual tradition!

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

KATHY PALMER IS OUR GUEST SPEAKER TUESDAY – We invite you to join us for the Faith & Grief lunch at noon this Tuesday, Dec. 4. Ten years ago, Kathy Palmer’s world was shattered when her husband of 27 years took his life. Village members, friends, family and a Stephen Minister helped Kathy and her daughter begin to heal. Come hear Kathy’s story Tuesday. Reservations are helpful; go online at faithandgrief.org or contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

POINSETTIAS! POINSETTIAS! 250 NEED A HOME! OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO DRIVE, DELIVERING ALL THROUGH THE TOWN–YAY! – If you would like to brighten a member’s life by bringing him/her a poinsettia, come to the Welcome Center anytime between services on Sunday, Dec. 9. Choose a card with a name and address, pick up a poinsettia, and deliver it between Dec. 9-12. Your help is greatly appreciated!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ADVENT CELEBRATION RESERVATION DEADLINE EXTENDED – PW has extended the reservation deadline for the Dec. 11, Advent Celebration to tomorrow, Dec. 3. This treasured event embraces beautiful music, inspirational words and delicious food with room for ALL. Purchase reservations online at villagpres.org/pw or by mail with form (available at the church). If mailing form, please also call or text Lucy Tidwell at 913-486-7129 by tomorrow, Dec. 3, so that we include you in our food counts. For child care, email Pam at pam@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2352 no later than Tuesday, Dec. 4.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry is for all people in their 20’s and 30’s.

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – No Theology Thursday this week! Check out the Snow Globes Concert! We return Dec. 13, for our LAST Theology Thursday of the year.

SNOW GLOBES CHRISTMAS CONCERT – 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in Friendship Hall. Come check out the Snow Globes! The Snow Globes are a local KC trio who unite every Christmas season for a spectacular concert that benefits mission partners. This year, we get to host one of their shows. Barnaby Bright (Becky and Nathan Bliss) opening. A retiring offering will be collected, and half will be distributed to the Grandview Park Presbyterian Church Kitchen Project. Child care available. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY – 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at The Brooksider (downstairs). Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and bring a friend for a SURPRISE white elephant gift exchange (surprise as in you bring nothing, we provide wrapped gifts, you leave with something fabulous). All we ask you to bring is $10 as a contribution to our Grandview Park Kitchen Renovation Project. Appetizer-style food provided. Drinks are on you. RSVP at VillagePresYA.org/calendar/christmas.

Winter Weather Advisory

If the weather forecast is to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission will be cancelled.
YOUTH MINISTRY

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

**ALPHA & OMEGA** (middle and high school Sunday mornings) – 9:30 a.m. today.

**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, in the 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, at Zach’s house (5401 W. 77th St., Prairie Village) And yes, we give you a ride to school afterward if you need it!

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN** – The Confirmation Class is open to all students in 9th grade, or older if they have not yet taken the class. Forms and schedules can be found on the youth website: villagepresyouth.org/forms.

---

**Christmas Eve Worship Service Times**

**Village on Mission** – 5 p.m. Family Worship with The Gathering Band; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship; 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion. All services will be in the Sanctuary.

**Village on Antioch** – 7:30 pm. Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary.

---

**Thank You for Your Commitment to the 2019 Annual Commitment Campaign!**

If you have not yet completed your commitment card, please do so now. Your gift does make a difference.

Complete your commitment card and return to the church or go online to villagepres.org/giving, and click “Continue to Commitment Form,” complete and click “Send.”

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

---

**Christmas Poinsettia Memorials Reserve by this Friday, Dec. 7**

Celebrate the Advent and Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Make your $10 check payable to Village Church, clearly printing the memorial name with your donation. Send to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by this Friday, Dec. 7. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.
Gospel Writers Tour of Homes

Part of the power of the celebration of Christmas is found in tradition. You, no doubt, return to familiar observations of the season. There are decorations, foods and other traditions that we revisit year after year. It’s part of what makes it Christmas. This Advent we will consider how each Gospel writer might celebrate this season. How might Matthew decorate his home, or what carols would be most important to Luke? Each writer speaks of Jesus in a different way, so if we look closely, we will find that each Gospel writer celebrates this season in his own way. So, let’s take a Gospel Writers Tour of Homes this Advent. It will no doubt bring to sharper focus what will be important to celebrate in our homes this Christmas.

Dec. 2  Christmas at Mark’s House
Dec. 9  Christmas at Matthew’s House
Dec. 16 Christmas at Luke’s House
Dec. 23 Christmas at John’s House
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Welcome Home, Little One

MINISTERS
All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM
Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor  ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Will Breytspraak, director of music  ❖ Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care
Rev. Becky Chamberlain, interim pastor of pastoral care  ❖ Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick, site pastor of Village on Antioch
Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry  ❖ Marjean Lindquist, director of child care
Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration  ❖ Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor
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  ❖ Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher to bring you one.

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.