



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 16, 2018 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

We celebrate Christmas at Luke's house today. It's quieter than it was at Matthew's house. Luke will show us the manger and if the timing is right, we might even get to hold the baby.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Awake! A Voice is Calling), *BWV 645*
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Introit *Stars I Shall Find*
by Victor C. Johnson; Village Voices

Call to Worship Judy & Bob Bliss (8 a.m.)
Terry Lindberg & Judy Lindberg (9:30 a.m.)
Tanya, Thurston, Isaac, Caroline & Anna Cromwell (11 a.m.)

Come now to this place of rest and renewal;
let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**God strengthens those who are weak,
comforts those who are broken hearted,
and God's light is life for all.**

Blessed are those who walk in God's light,
and blessed are all who find their way to the manger's side.

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

**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. 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*
GENEVAN

*Prayer of Confession Rev. Len Carrell

**Gracious and Eternal God,
We have been busy this week.
Life is full of responsibilities;
most of which, when viewed from Your perspective, are insignificant.**

Our prayer this week is simple:

**train our eyes to see what You see,
our hearts to love what You love,
our desire to want what You want.**

**With Your help, we will draw closer to the dreams You have always held for us;
dreams You have never forgotten,
dreams You will never abandon.** (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

Call to Prayer (from Hymn, No. 115)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

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

Lost in the Night
music: Kyle S. Haugen; Village Voices

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 933)

Sermon

Christmas at Luke's House

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 115

Away in a Manger
MUELLER

Offertory

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
music: Mark. A. Miller; Village Voices

*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

*Hymn, No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

*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.

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



MUSIC NOTES

Today we are thrilled to have the Village Voices sharing their music in all three of our morning services. These talented young people, grades 7-12, rehearse weekly and sing frequently in Sunday morning worship. The Village Voices and conductor Matthew Shepard took their inspirational music on the road last June with a tour to Chicago, and they will be heading west to San Francisco this June. Thank you, Village Voices!

DID YOU SEE THE DOORS?

We are on the Gospel Writers Tour of Homes, and in the Welcome Center there are artistic imaginings of the front door of each home. Thanks to all members of the Liturgical Arts team for this display.

Mark's Door is quite simple and devoid of any decoration. When you are in the wilderness, you don't need decorations, but you do need a little light. The lamp burns as a reminder that we are God's children and loved by God. Mark says that Jesus comes into the wilderness and brings the "peaceable kingdom" that Isaiah described. (Look it up in Isaiah 11:6-9).

Matthew's Door is festive, clad in purple to celebrate Jesus as the Royal Son of King David. His wreath is filled with international flags, as Jesus has come as the Savior of the nations. Look through the window glass. You can see the house is filled with people. Matthew knows that Jesus draws the whole human family to himself.

Luke's Door needs a little attention. Luke lives way out at the edge of town, far away from the halls of power. There is a manger at Luke's house. It's not nostalgic; Luke knows that Jesus sees those for whom the world has no room. You might drive right by his house and have no idea who is inside. But take time to go inside. You might even get to hold the baby.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 17, 2018)

The following daily Bible readings were written by the Rev. 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, Dec. 17

Luke 1:5-25

In this first story in Luke's Gospel, we meet the priest Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. When Zechariah enters the sanctuary of the temple, the angel Gabriel appears to him and tells him the good news that he and Elizabeth will have a child. Zechariah does not believe the angel and so is struck dumb. Ephesians 2:8 reminds us that faith is a gift from God. Pray today for God to give you the gift to believe.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel is busy. In this second story in Luke's Gospel, Gabriel appears to Mary, a young woman who is engaged to be married to Joseph. He tells Mary that she will bear a child. When Mary asks how this is possible since she is a virgin, Gabriel tells her that "nothing will be impossible with God." Do you believe that? Claim the angel's words today and be assured that they are trustworthy and true.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Luke 1:39-45

After the visit from the angel, Mary goes to see her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth sees Mary, the baby in her womb leaps, and Elizabeth blesses Mary with words that are familiar to many Roman Catholics – "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth both confirms and comforts Mary. None of us can live completely on our own. We need others. To whom do you turn for comfort and confirmation? Give thanks for them today.

Thursday, Dec. 20

Luke 1:46-56

Called the "Magnificat" in Latin from the first line in Mary's song, "My soul magnifies the Lord...", it is telling that Mary sings this beautiful canticle of praise to God as a result of the news that she will bear the Messiah into the world. What song do you sing when you praise God? Sing that song of praise today. Even if you do not think you can carry a tune, sing anyway. Remember Psalm 98 says, "make a joyful noise to the Lord." Even if you are not a singer, you can still make noise!

Friday, Dec. 21

Luke 1:57-66

After years of being unable to bear a child, Elizabeth gives birth to a boy. Elizabeth's neighbors celebrate with her. When it comes time to circumcise and name the child, she and Zechariah name him, "John" and Zechariah is able to speak again. His first words are praises to God. What words of praise will you say to God today?

Saturday, Dec. 22

Luke 1:67-80

When John is born, the neighbors wonder, "What will then become of this child?" Today's Bible passage is Zechariah's answer. He tells all who are listening that his son will "go before the Lord to prepare his ways." What hopes did others have for you when you were born? As your life has unfolded, how have those hopes changed? As we prepare once again for the birth of Jesus Christ, what hopes do you have for this next year?

Sweetly Singing O'er The Plains

3 & 6 p.m. SUNDAY, DEC. 16



Today!

Village on Mission Sanctuary

A free-will offering benefits the Sherwood Center - providing special education services to individuals with autism.



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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TODAY in Friendship Hall, beginning at 10:40 a.m. Parents, meet your kindergarteners through sixth Graders in Friendship Hall after Sunday school. Come witness the greatest story ever told through the eyes of the children at Village. Join Dino O'Dell, Margaret Veglahn and our sixth graders for a production you won't want to miss!

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

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 worshipping 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 dates are Feb. 3, March 25, June 10. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331 for more information.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

The spring 2019 Village U term will offer a wide variety of classes that include and Bible Study with Rev. Tom Are, Jr., interesting classes led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, an Art Workshop led by Susan Webb, a variety of helpful computer classes and many more. Spend some time discovering all that is available and join us!

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee per child for the spring term; reservations required in advance.
- Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees will be noted in the class listing.
- You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email.

Registration for Village U 2019 spring term:

For Village Church members: Registration begins on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

For non-members: Registration begins on Monday, Jan. 14.

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

FAITH JOURNEY is now studying "You Are What You Love - The Spiritual Power of Habit" by James K. A. Smith who says that who and what we worship fundamentally shapes our hearts. And while we desire to shape culture, we are not often aware of how culture shapes us. We will explore the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices. Facilitated by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

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. Room 15.

VILLAGE FORUM – Today, 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:

SPECIAL ADVENT ADULT CLASS – Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will teach on the Advent passage preached each morning. Today – Luke’s gospel. Rooms 132-133.

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 – NO MORNING STARS THIS WEEK!

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.

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAYS – All children are invited to participate in worship on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. Child care is available for children ages 0-3 years. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL scheduled due to the Christmas holiday.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Christmas will be soon upon us, and the clients of The Food Pantry have been enjoying their picks of the small Christmas knick knacks and decorations that you have donated. But more are always needed, (no Christmas trees, please). The Food Pantry is asking for pasta and pasta sauces during December - it sure goes out fast! The Clothes Closet is asking for all things warm - blankets, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. Thank you.

DECK THE VILLAGE TREES WITH DIAPERS AND HATS AND MITTENS – Now through Dec. 24, come put hats and mittens on our trees and diapers (all sizes welcome including adult large and XL) under our trees 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. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org for more information.

JOY OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING (DEC. 23) – The Joy Offering provides support to current and retired church workers in need (50%) and to students attending Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges (50%). The Christmas Project offering helps local social service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs (100%). Green envelopes for this offering will be in the hymnal slots in the pew in front of you.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

TAIZÉ IS THIS TUESDAY, DEC. 18 – During this joyful yet busy season, take a moment to slow down and reflect on the holy meaning of Christmastime. Come to Taizé worship this Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. in the Village on Mission Chapel. Meditate during scripture and prayer, join in song and communion, and feel at peace in the candlelight.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF BEGINS IN FEBRUARY – If you have lost a loved one, consider coming to Growing Through Grief, a five-week class where you'll know that God is with us even through our hardest moments. This session is from 4:45-6 p.m. every Wednesday, Feb. 13-March 13, in Room 124. There is no cost, but registration is required-contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

SOMETIMES THE HOLIDAYS THE HOLIDAYS ARE HARD – This is a season of joy, yet it can also be a season of challenges. If you are dealing with some of life's harder moments this season, consider receiving support from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential care; contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347 or len.carrell@villagepres.org for more information.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY – 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at The Brookside (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.

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).

NO EARLY TABLE (morning devotional for high schoolers with food) – Due to the finals schedule and no late start this week, we will not meet. Early Table will resume Jan. 10.

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.

2019 Annual Commitment

First the good news: your response has been generous and we are almost to our goal for 2019.

What's missing? About 200 pledges that have yet to be returned. The Session will be putting the 2019 budget together in early January, so if you haven't yet done so, please return a pledge card or go online to villagepres.org/giving, and click "Continue to Commitment Form," complete and click "Send."

Together we will make 2019 a year of faith and faithfulness.



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

**You're Invited to a
Retirement Luncheon for Marianne Weber**

Marianne Weber, coordinator for adult educational ministries, is retiring after serving Village Church for 24 years. All are invited to a luncheon in her honor from noon-2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, in Friendship Hall. Cost is \$10 per person.

Register online at bit.ly/Marianneluncheon or by calling Linda Alley at 913-671-2327. **The deadline for registration is today.** Contact Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka at rodger@villagepres.org for more information.



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.

No Gathering Service Tonight

Due to the Tidings of Joy performances,
The Gathering will be back at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23.

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.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

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.
