



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 23, 2018 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

John has invited us for Christmas at his house. John loves to tell stories. You remember the story about Nicodemus, or the woman at the well, or the man born blind. John tells all of those stories. But when it comes to Christmas, John reaches as far as the human imagination can reach, and he speaks in poetry.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Rejoice Greatly (8 a.m.)

by G. F. Handel; Wayne Bates, trumpet

The First Noel - Traditional (9:30 a.m.)

by Erika Kauffman Wheeler, flute; Destiny Ann Mermagen, violin

The Sugar Plum Fairy (11 a.m.)

by Tchaikovsky; Evelyn Holmes and Destiny Ann Mermagen, violin

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Introit

Pastorale (8 a.m.)

by G.F. Handel; Bruce Williams, violin

Christmas Concerto for Three Violins (9:30 a.m.)

by Arcangelo Corelli; Laurel Schaich, Matt Schaich and Bruce Williams

Call to Worship

Dee Couch, Carol Tucker & Edie Hultman (8 a.m.)

Pat & Andy Harris (9:30 a.m.)

Elaine & Dave Franz (11 a.m.)

We gather in this place to remember God's promises:

**that the broken will be mended,
and the grieving will be comforted,
and the hopeless will find hope.**

We lean into these promises,
sometimes with strong faith,
sometimes with big questions,
but always with hope.

**God will be faithful,
so, our hope will not disappoint us.**

Lighting of the Fourth 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. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

**God of light and life,
our prayer this week is anything but simple:
to see the good in one another,
to live as if peace is possible,
to choose joy even in the dark of night,
and to trust love in every circumstance.**

This is our hope, a hope that we receive from You. (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

Angels We Have Heard On High (9:30 a.m.)

Traditional; Village Players

Silent Night (11 a.m.)

by Tchaikovsky; Evelyn Holmes and Destiny Ann Mermagen, violin

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Tucker (8 a.m.)

Christian Scammahorn Vaz (9:30 a.m.)

Asa Schaaf (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-9, 14 (pg. 1110)

Sermon

Christmas at John's House

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Offertory

A Maiden Most Gentle

music: Andrew Carter; 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

*Hymn, No. 123 (Choir only on v. 4)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*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

Caroling, Caroling! (8,11 a.m.)

arr. Diane Bish

Deck the Halls (9:30 a.m.)

Traditional; The Village Players

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns



MUSIC NOTE

Today we welcome members of the Village Players to all of our morning services! The Village Players were founded in the fall of 2018 for instrumentalists of all ages who simply love playing chamber music. If you know someone who may be interested in participating with the Village Players, email Will Breytspraak at will.breytspraak@villagepres.org.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 24, 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. 24

Luke 1:46-56

These words, attributed as “Mary’s Song,” are sung in response to Elizabeth’s words in the preceding verses. I have to imagine Mary was at times still quite unsure about the child she was carrying and the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy. These verses remind us that she was also hopeful and filled with joy. While Mary stayed with Elizabeth perhaps she was grateful to have family who rejoiced in this pregnancy, which made it easy to praise God’s mercies and blessings. Not everyone’s families inspire that kind of response this time of year, but how can we find reasons to feel like Mary on this of all days?

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Luke 2:1-20

This year we have spent time in worship reading each of the gospel birth narratives. Luke’s has always been my favorite. Visiting the newborn is the least of these, shepherds, who were curious to see what had happened. It is a not-so-subtle reminder that the hope Jesus brings with him is for all people, and of the ways God makes particular space for those who often have no place to claim as their own.

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Isaiah 9:2-7

While Isaiah likely did not have Jesus in mind in these verses, as Christians we look at the words of this prophet and connect them to the Messiah we proclaim in Jesus Christ. In these troubling days how do we proclaim the titles in v.6 given to the Messiah: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace? Which of these names are you most in need of today? Which one do you think you are uniquely able to preach and demonstrate to the world today?

Thursday, Dec. 27

Psalms 80

One cannot help but note the desire here to be seen and heard by God in the chorus of this psalm: “Restore us... let your face shine, that we might be saved.” These verses remind us that we can call on God in times of joy and times of difficulty. They also remind us, no matter what the circumstance, of who God is, and inspire us to take comfort and hope in God’s past interventions as we also yearn for God’s future actions.

Friday, Dec. 28

Titus 2:11-14

We are always proclaiming a paradox: Christ has come, and Christ will come again. The grace of God has appeared and salvation has been brought; we are awaiting the manifestation of that glory and of our Savior. As such, we are challenged to live according to both. We are to live in the full confidence the Christ has come, and salvation is here; we are called to live in the anticipation and expectation of what is yet to come. How are you living out that we are redeemed by what Christ has done, and also that we live toward the future day when Christ will come again?

Saturday, Dec. 29

Psalms 96

Sometimes it is just good to sing joy. As the end of December approaches, what are the joys you have celebrated this past year? How have you grown? What hopes do you have as you look toward the year ahead? How have you shared these joys, hopes, and reflections with the Lord of truth who made the heavens?

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.

John's Door is beautiful with stone and brass. It reflects the awe and dignity John brings to Christmas. If you step inside John's house, you will find him in the library. He is searching for the best words to describe the incarnation, and for John those words are words of poetry. Simple prose is just too small. Notice John's wreath: words of beauty are woven together to point to the wonder of what God has done.

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.

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

JOY OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING – 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.

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. We hope you will 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 at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9.

For non-members: Registration begins on at 9 a.m. 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.

GROWING TOGETHER invites you to join us in New Testament Bible study. We look for the stories in the Bible and make connections using the What? So What? Now What? framework. We are growing together in faith, which makes us stronger Christians and enables us to have a greater impact. This year, we will be looking at the stories that emerge from Paul's letters. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Now through May in Room 124.

VILLAGE FORUM – Today 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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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

TODAY IS FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY – No Sunday School this week due to Christmas break.

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. **Remember Morning Stars will not meet next Sunday, Dec. 30.**

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 next Sunday, Dec. 30.

VILLAGE PRESCHOOL ON MISSION enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year will begin Jan. 14 for current Preschool families and Village Church members. Enrollment opens to the community on Jan. 22. More information can be found on the Village Church website. Contact Sarah McKee with questions: 913-671-2338 or sarah.mckee@villagepres.org

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – Throughout January, children and families are encouraged to bring cans of soup to Kids' Kingdom and Preschool Sunday School. This mission project shows kids they can make a positive difference in the world.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Christmas is only two days away, and the staff and volunteers of the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet want to thank you for all the food, clothing and Christmas decorations which you have donated to make Christmas special for the clients of the Pantry and Clothes Closet. You have succeeded in bringing joy, and we all have been blessed by your generosity. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

DECK THE VILLAGE TREES WITH DIAPERS AND HATS AND MITTENS – 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.

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES - Friday, Jan. 11, Village will cook for and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need volunteers from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to serve and clean up. Cookie donations can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10. If you can help, you can sign up at bit.ly/cross-lines-sign-up.

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!

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL JAN. 10 – Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Village Mission for Second Thursday Recital with The Wires, an original alternative classical music duo comprised of Sascha Groschang on cello and Laurel Parks on violin. Together they surpass expectations of what a string duo can be by incorporating innovative sounds and techniques into their pop song-length compositions and teaching other string players how to do the same.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DELIVERED A POINSETTIA! A big holiday hug to everyone who delivered one or more poinsettias earlier this month. Thanks to you, more than 250 people are having a brighter Advent season all over the metro area.

SOMETIMES THE HOLIDAYS THE HOLIDAYS ARE HARD – If you are dealing with some of life's harder moments during this time of year, 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT'S BOOK BRUNCH – Please join us for one of our most popular events! It will take place in the Heritage Dining Room from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 11. Simply wrap one of your favorite books (new or used) to swap for another's good read. In addition to the book swap, please consider bringing new or gently-used books for the sweet children at Operation Breakthrough. For additional details and to RSVP email shelbykrumm@yahoo.com.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – Merry Christmas Young Adults! We resume Theology Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10, for "Bible Stories You Should Know."

YOUTH MINISTRY

PROGRAMS ON BREAK! – All Youth programs are on winter break and will resume Jan. 6. We hope to see you then!

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.

SUMMER TRIPS OPEN – You can now register for all of our summer trips: San Francisco, a local KC trip, HS Montreat, and the MS Float Trip! Just head to villagepresyouth.org/forms or pick up a hard copy by the youth offices or in the Youth Loft.

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.

May the blessings of Christ be with you and your family
this joyous day and throughout the New Year.

Kathy, Suzanne, Jack, Melanie, Gina and Molly



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

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.
