



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

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

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Maybe this is what Paul's Christmas would have looked like, if Paul had any concept of Christmas. Paul is showering the Colossian church with gifts and garments galore. He is teaching the church that we have some things we need to try on. He teaches the church what we wear has an effect on our attitude. This is a metaphor, of course, and a good one for Paul because he knows that the good news of Christ can be seen on us. The gifts Paul brings everyone for Christmas reminds us of the true gift of Christmas – "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...and be thankful!"

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Arabian Dance from "The Nutcracker"
by P. Tchaikovsky/Fred Hohman

Words of Welcome

Rev. Len Carrell

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Lord Jesus, You have come.

**You have come with high choirs of angels, and with lowly shepherds and sheep.
You have come with Magi from the east, and with treasure chests and stars.**

Lord Jesus, You have come.

**Bringing good news to the poor, and release to the captives.
Bringing hope, peace, joy and love.**

Lord Jesus, You have come.

And we have come to adore You.

*Hymn, No. 114

Away in a Manger
CRADLE SONG

*Prayer of Confession

**God of goodness and mercy,
You know how we have stumbled keeping Christmas in our lives:
In considering the needs of others,
caring for both old and young,
sharing more love than expecting it,
keeping in prayer what others carry inside,
letting our light shine forth and our shadows fall behind,
burying our ugliness, and growing our joy.
May Christmas be our spirit all life long.
Forgive us when we stumble, and receive us anew. (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.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-17 (pg. 1074)

Sermon

Keeping Christmas, Keeping Christ

Rev. Len Carrell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions
NEW DIMENSIONS

Offertory

Improvisation
by Daphnia Portier

*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. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*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

In Dulci Jubilo
by Norman dello Joio

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns



Register for
Spring 2019
Village U Classes

Starting Jan. 9 for church members
Jan. 14 for the community



The Gathering invites you to begin the new year with an Epiphany Potluck next Sunday, Jan. 6, immediately following the Gathering worship service at 5 p.m. Bring your gifts of food to share, or just come and eat. If you've never worshiped with the Gathering, come try a new thing. All are invited, because it's always better when we Gather together.

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 31, 2019)

The following daily Bible readings were written by the Rev. Len Carrell 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. 31

Matthew 1:18-25

In Matthew's telling of the Christmas story, it is important that the infant is named "Jesus." After a description of family lineage, the last line of the first chapter says, "... and he named him Jesus." The hymn "Love Has Come" (Glory To God Hymnal #110) imagines that wondrous moment of naming a child and seeing the glow in a new mother's eyes as she looks at her baby. "What is the name her heart is saying? Love!" It is precious and holy to see love in the face of a baby.

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Luke 2:8-14

The text of the hymn "From Heaven Above" (Glory To God #111) is written by Martin Luther. In the hymnal notes, it tells us that Luther wrote this for his children to sing at home on Christmas Eve. It is a retelling of the Luke story. But verse four caught my attention. Suddenly the ones who are singing become the shepherds who spread the good news of what was heard and seen. "I too must sing with joyful tongue the sweetest ancient cradlesong."

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Isaiah 9:2-6

The hymn "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt" (Glory To God #120) asks how can we be surprised to find Isaiah there. For Isaiah, the Christ child has great authority and many names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The authority the child possesses is to rule with "endless peace." The beautiful hymn captures the promise Isaiah speaks of—this child, this son, this Prince of Peace is for us all.

Thursday, Jan. 3

Isaiah 11:1-9

Jesse was King David's father. The prophet Isaiah tell us the Messiah will come from King David's family. Jesus is that "shoot," that "branch" that will grow out from the roots of a stump. The image of new life that springs forth from a dry old stump is worth our recognition during this season. It is familiar to us at Easter, perhaps newer to us at Christmas. Could it be an image of the incarnation? Read through the lines of "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (Glory To God Hymnal #129). It seems to imagine the new life this way. "It came, a floweret bright, ... To show God's love aright, ... enfleshed, yet very God"

Friday, Jan. 4

Psalms 98

Isaac Watts and George Frederick Handel must have grown up in marching band together because "Joy to the World" (Glory To God Hymnal #134) is the greatest anthem I have ever heard. This song just makes hearts want to stand up and make a joyful noise to the Lord. This song is so earth rousing. The seas roar and the floods clap their hands. It is a song that declares the victory of God over sin and death. It is a chorus that makes both the heavens and the earth sing together, in one voice, the wonders of God's love.

Saturday, Jan. 5

Isaiah 11:6

The John L. Bell hymn "Who Would Think That What Was Needed" (Glory To God Hymnal #138) is a new one to me and to my Christmas repertoire. The repeated stanza at the end makes an important discovery. "God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day." We're so ready for Christmas to be here that we forget just how scandalously God surprised the earth with a baby. As startling as a lamb that will lie down with a wolf, God continues to surprise us. God's ways are not our ways. God's vision for us is far greater than our understanding.

All-Church Winter

BOWLING

Event

2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27 | Ward Parkway Lanes

Cost: \$5 a person (includes shoes!)

RSVP to liz.middleton@villagepres.org or 913-671-2359



Dr. Warren Carter

March 1-2, 2019

**Telling Tales About an Elusive God:
Reading the Gospels**

Friendship Hall – Village on Mission

Admission Free! Child care is available with advance registration.

**Please register and get more details at
villagepres.org/visiting-scholar**

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.

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 and 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, director of the Food Pantry, 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.

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 – In January Walt Grainger has agreed to lead the discussion for five weeks "Vanishing Grace" (What ever happened to the good news?) Author Philip Yancey explores the desperate need our world has for grace, and how Christians can truly make the gospel good news again when research shows that favorable opinions of Christianity have plummeted drastically—and opinions of Evangelicals have taken even deeper dives. Facilitated by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH offers challenging discussion of a wide range of topics based on presentations by visiting teachers or video-discussion format. Class members are singles & couples who enjoy participating in discussion and exploration of new ideas while welcoming a diversity of perspectives. Facilitated by Diann Markley. Room 15.

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 – In January Dr. Leslie Smith, professor at Avila University, will introduce the class to how systemic oppression operates and why it is generally accepted within our culture (even as many of us recognize that it is unethical). TODAY: Habitus and Systemic Oppression; Jan. 13: Intro to Gender Theory; Jan. 20: Intro to Race Theory; Jan. 27: What Do I Do Now? Organizing an Ethical Response? Room 126.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

ALL SERVICES–CHILD CARE – Infants through 4-year-olds are welcome in Rooms 114, 111 and/or 107.

MORNING STARS – will not meet today.

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 SUNDAY – All children are invited to participate in worship today.

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 at 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.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS – Take a night off from cooking! Out next dinner is Jan. 9. The menu is honey Dijon chicken with apples, rice pilaf primavera and a green vegetable. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m. and hot food bar is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 for the full meal and \$6 for salad bar & dessert only. RSVP by noon Jan. 7 to liz.middleton@villagepres.org or 913-671-2359.

ALL-CHURCH WINTER BOWLING EVENT – Join us for our "All-Church" Bowling Event for our Village Church Family from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at Ward Parkway Lanes (89th & State Line). Cost is \$5 per person (includes shoes!) for two hours of play. RSVP to liz.middleton@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2359.

70s and UP LUNCH – You are invited to meet at the Mexican restaurant, Salsa Grill in Mission, to enjoy low-seasoned dishes and good prices. We'll gather for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 6508 Martway. We hope you can come and enjoy the fellowship of friends (each person pays for their meal). Space is limited, please RSVP to Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

DRAWDOWN–SOLUTIONS TO REVERSE GLOBAL WARMING is a comprehensive strategy to stop and reverse the causes of global warming and climate change. This strategy is being embraced by many in government, business, and civic and faith communities. All are invited to a workshop at 8:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 12, in Friendship Hall led by Emily Libla and Rev. Helen Nelson, two environmentalists and social justice advocates. Participants will leave with practical, clear strategies for stopping global warming. This is sponsored by the Environmental Action committee. For more information and to register, contact Jerry Rees at reesveenstrat@aol.com.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Tomorrow is New Year's Eve. When you're making your New Year's resolutions, the Food Pantry is hoping that one will be to bring one food item with you each week on your visit to the church - 52 items will go a long way to keeping the Pantry full for its clients. The Pantry is asking for canned fruit in January, and the Clothes Closet is asking for gently used warm blankets, winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. Happy and safe New Year!

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, Kan. 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, contact Jim Bolton at 913-262-3823 or jcb3823@gmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL JAN. 10 – Please join us from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, in the Village on Mission Chapel for Second Thursday Recital with The Wires, an original alternative classical music duo comprised of Sascha Groschang on cello and Laurel Parks on violin. Admission is free.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICE TUESDAY, JAN. 8 – Come to Taizé worship at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, in the Village on Mission Chapel. Meditate during scripture and prayer, join in song and communion, and feel at peace in the candlelight. Taizé is on the second Tuesday of each month in the Chapel.

JOIN US ON JAN. 8 FOR THE FAITH AND GRIEF LUNCHEON – Why is it that grief can always be shocking? Rev. Len Carrell shares his personal story of losing someone close at the next gathering. Due to the New Year holiday, the monthly Faith and Grief lunch will take place at noon Tuesday, Jan. 8, in Friendship Hall. A box lunch is provided. Reservations are helpful; register online at www.faithandgrief.org or call 469-251-9612. For more information, contact Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327.

HELP DELIVER SOME CHEER IN THE NEW YEAR – Deliver flowers to those who are hospitalized or cannot make it to church throughout 2019. Find out more at the annual Dates and Donuts Sunday, Jan. 13, between services (9-9:30 a.m., 10:30-11 a.m. and noon-12:15 p.m.). Nancy Skidmore will be in the Welcome Center so please stop by, get information, a schedule and a donut!

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. 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.

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.

WOW LUNCH AT CAFÉ PROVENCE – Women of Wisdom (WOW) looks forward to lunch at one of its favorite restaurants, Café Provence, 3936 West 69th Terr. in Prairie Village, at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 16. Most are familiar with this cozy, award-winning restaurant described as “where the food speaks French.” RSVP to Diane Lee, 913-432-4321, or dianelee@att.net by Jan. 15. All women are invited.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – Happy New Year Young Adults! We resume Theology Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10, with “Her Story.” It's astounding how many of our lesser known Biblical characters are female. They are featured prominently among our sacred stories, but they are much less likely to appear in Sunday School lessons. In this era of #MeToo, as our world awakens to our long-held practice of silencing women, we're revisiting the stories of women who have shaped our faith in the shadows of thousands of years of patriarchy. In this series, we look at Her stories. More online: VillagePresYA.org/thursdays.

YOUTH MINISTRY

PROGRAMS ON BREAK! – All Youth programs are on winter break and will resume Jan. 6.

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 REGISTRATION 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting/Dinner

This year an annual meeting will take place at both the Mission campus and the Antioch campus. You are welcome to attend the meeting at either location. Rev. Tom Are will provide a review of 2018 and plans for 2019. The Session will present the budget for 2019.

MISSION CAMPUS – The Annual Meeting follows dinner in Friendship Hall on **Tuesday, Jan. 29**. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. **Seating is limited.** If you plan to attend, please advise Marsha Hansen no later than Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 913-671-2341 or marsha.hansen@villagepres.org.

ANTIOCH CAMPUS – The Annual Meeting begins at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 6**, preceded by a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please advise the Antioch location at 913-681-8180 or email office@villageantioch.org no later than Monday, Jan. 28.

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!



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 canceled.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

I Wish the Preacher Would Talk About . . .

Every year the pastoral staff selects five or six conversations to have as a church family. This is our Sermon Series. For January and February, we are inviting you to suggest the topics. What do you wish the Sunday sermon to consider? Is there a Bible passage or a general topic you would like the preacher to consider? Let us know. We will choose from the most popular suggestions. So, what do you wish the preacher would talk about? Email your question or suggestion to Rev. Tom Are at tom@villagepres.org.

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.
