



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. It will feel familiar. That's intentional, as over the years, over the centuries even, the Church has collected traditions that lift up the holy choice of God to dwell with us. The familiar feel is a good thing, but it can also be misleading; after all, we are celebrating the birth of one born of woman, as is every child, yet born of God's power, as was no other child. He was born as one of us, but he is not like us.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star (8 a.m.)

Max Reger

Coventry Carol (9:30, 11 a.m.)

music: Donald Matthews; Village Brass

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

We did not come to this place following a star;

not yet.

We have come because we are desperate for light.

We did not come because shepherds overheard glad tidings;

not yet.

We have come because we are longing to hear good news.

We did not come because a baby is asleep in a manger;

not yet.

We have come because we need love to be born in us again.

Here it is easier to remember the promises of God.

And when the time is right, Christmas will come to us.

*Hymn, No. 88 (v. 1,2,6,7)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Jake Bleything, Anthony Perkins and Spencer Ruwe (8 a.m.)

Erica, Michael, Porter, Reagan and Piper Brune (9:30 a.m.)

Rachel Priest and Doug Jones (11 a.m.)

*Hymn, No. 104 (v. 2)

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;

your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.

O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace

in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

*Prayer of Confession

**Incarnate God,
We sing of a silent night,
but we long to hear your voice.
We sing of joy to the world,
but we are all too familiar with sorrow.
We sing O come all ye faithful,
but our own faith is often lacking.
Draw near to us, O child of Bethlehem.
Be the answer to our unspoken questions,
the courage that scatters our secret fears,
and the love that humbles our hardened hearts.** (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

New Members (11 a.m.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Anthem

Jesus Child
John Rutter; Village Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Dee Couch (8 a.m.)
Kathy Lueckert (9:30 a.m.)
Scott Stanley (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14 (pg. 966)

Sermon

This Is the Stranger's Town

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 84 (soloist v. 1; congregation v. 2-4)

Creator of the Stars of Night
CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo (8 a.m.)
Norman Dello Joio; Village Choir

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen (9:30, 11 a.m.)
music: Donald Matthews; Village Brass

*Response

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

*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

The First Nowell
THE FIRST NOWELL

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

People, Look East
arr. Martin Shaw; Village Choir

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.

*Postlude

Wake! Awake! For Night Is Flying (8 a.m.)
Emma Lou Diemer

In Dulci Jubilo (9:30, 11 a.m.)
music: David Giardinere; Village Brass

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

SERMON NOTES

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 4, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by 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. 4

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Opening verses from one of Paul's letters often give us a clue about why he is writing. In these verses we see him giving thanks for them and their spiritual growth. As we read on, we find that they are in need of more growth, but at the same time they are doing great things. It often helps me remember that I need to hold in balance a drive to grow and change while at the same time recognizing places where I am (hopefully) doing God's work in this world.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Psalm 93

We find in this Psalm a short prayer lifted up to God. Using this as your inspiration, write and/or pray your own short offering of praise to God.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Mark 13:24-37

These are strange and foreboding words from Jesus. However, I think they were meant to be a comfort to us. While we are to be vigilant, we are also to take comfort in our "not-knowing." Do not let your actions be determined by a deadline, but instead delight and take joy in God's work on a daily basis. It is hard to take joy, and difficult to change the world, if we cannot "keep awake."

Thursday, Dec. 7

Daniel 7:9-14

I often forget about the portions of Daniel that contain visions similar to those in Revelation. While deconstructing such text is always tempting (and has led many to make strange and unfounded predictions), it is often fruitful to appreciate the poetry and imagery. What impression do these verses give about the nature of God? What comfort can be found in them?

Friday, Dec. 8

Revelation 1:4b-8

Well, yesterday's verses made me think so much about Revelation that I couldn't resist including it! Read these verses with yesterday's reading from Daniel. What echoes do you hear? How do these verses resonate with those in Daniel? How are you living your life in light of God being "the Alpha and the Omega"?

Saturday, Dec. 9

John 18:33-37

Today we have a little bit of Easter breaking into the Advent season. The whole interaction between Pilate and Jesus is a fascinating one; clearly the author is alluding to a larger, symbolic conversation that is happening beneath the surface. Jesus tells Pilate, "My kingdom is not from this world." How often are we seeking that kingdom? How often are we leaving space and time for that kingdom to break into our lives?

Village Church Child and Family Development Center's Annual



6 P.M. *Friday, DEC. 15*
IN FRIENDSHIP HALL

\$8 for children 2 and up

\$10 for adults

Call **913-671-2310** for tickets.



Performed by the **VILLAGE CHOIRS & ORCHESTRA**
Introducing the **TIDINGS OF JOY CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

3 & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

JOINING VILLAGE CHURCH – Village welcomes **new members** today and every other month at a special Sunday luncheon. Please join us today, Feb. 4, March 25 and June 10, 2018. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for information.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE TODAY – At 4 p.m. today in the Sanctuary, we will remember and honor loved ones we deeply miss. This special service includes prayers, music, reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God's holy Christmas promise: there's a light in this world that the darkness will never overcome.

BLOOD PRESSURE – Village nurses will take your blood pressure today in the Bride's Room between services. This will be the only Sunday this month. Then only the first Sunday of every month to follow.

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14. All children are invited to our Christ-centered, child-centered Sunday mornings.

BIRTH-6TH GRADE – Registration cards and classroom schedules are available at sign in desks outside of Rooms 107 and 307.

INFANTS-TODDLERS – Child care available for all three morning Sanctuary services in Rooms 111 and 114.

PRESCHOOLERS – Preschool Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Rooms 101-107.

K-6TH GRADERS- KID'S KINGDOM SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30-10:30 a.m., K-3 beginning in Room 309, 4-5 in Room 301 and 6 in Room 302. Please see signage for pick-up room location.

MORNING STARS CHILDREN'S CHOIRS – 10:30-11 a.m. Prelude choir (K-2) Room 307. Morning Stars choir (3-6) Room 305.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/SING-ALONG with Rev. Len Carrell and Dino O'Dell. Sunday, Dec. 17, in Friendship Hall after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Children should attend Sunday School, and teachers will escort to the pageant.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

TECH TALK WITH TONY – Join Tony Liu as he leads a demonstration and discussion of the Mozilla and Chrome web browsers. If you use an Apple or Windows computer/laptop, tablet, or mobile phone, you can use the same web browser. We will discuss how to sync web tools, bookmarks, and browsing history across your devices. This session will be from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Room 316.

BEGINNER HULA HOOPING & HOOP DANCING CLASS – Bring a friend and try a fun new way to get a great cardio-vascular work-out with KC Hoop Girl, Sirena Beyer that will strengthen the core and burn calories. The hoops, music and fun are provided! Enter at the south side of the church and take the elevator to the third floor. Questions? Call 816-591-5186. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Thursday evenings in the Youth Loft.

Register for Village U classes at villagepres.org or contact Marianne at 913-671-2333 or marianne@villagepres.org.

HALLMARK CARDS EXHIBIT AT CROWN CENTER – For more than 100 years, Hallmark Cards has called Kansas City home. Joyce C. Hall, an 18-year-old entrepreneur, started the company in 1910 with a shoebox full of postcards. Today Hallmark creates greeting cards and many other products in 30 languages that reach 100 countries around the globe. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7. Cost for the bus is \$20 per person; participants pay for their own lunches.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES INCLUDE:

9:30 a.m.

FAITH JOURNEY – The class is studying Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity - Rediscovering a Life of Faith*, in which he explores what he calls two paradigms for looking at our faith and how those can work together. Led by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH – The class is studying "Painting the Stars," a study and conversation focused on the intersection of science, faith, and religion. Taught by Diann Markley. This study is DVD-based so each session will feature a clip as the basis for discussion.

GROWING TOGETHER class is for adults in their 40's and 50's who are interested in growing together in context of their families. Growing Together welcomes anyone who is looking for opportunities to grow using Christ's principles as we apply Jesus to our lives today. Join us as we study the Book of Acts. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Room 124.

ADULT FORUM CLASS – On Dec. 10 the class will continue our reflections on the Isaiah 9:6. Thanks to Handel, this is one of the most familiar Christmas texts. We make these ancient Old Testament words apply to the Bethlehem baby but given the fact that they were written centuries before his birth, are they? Certainly, Prince of Peace is a title we give him, but Everlasting Father seems a bit of a stretch. Come contribute to our conversation as we think about the names of Jesus and how they shape our understanding of him and his ministry. Led by Rev. Jay McKell. 9:30 a.m. Rooms 126-127.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Our menu for Dec. 6 is soup and baked potato bar—one meat soup, one vegetarian, and baked potatoes with various toppings. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. Full meal with salad bar and dessert is \$7. Salad bar and dessert is \$6. Children ages 4-10 are \$3 and children age 3 and under are no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon tomorrow.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – The Food Pantry is asking for canned fruit during December, when fresh fruit is scarce. Please pick up a few cans while doing your shopping at the grocery stores. The Clothes Closet is accepting Christmas decorations (no trees, please) and warm blankets, warm coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, etc. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

DECK THE VILLAGE TREES WITH HATS, MITTENS AND DIAPERS – A Village tradition, our Hat and Mitten Trees and the Diaper Drive, return for the holiday season. Now-Dec. 24, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens and place diapers below to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/ Food Pantry. You will find the trees located at the south entrance to the church and in the Welcome Center. The Pantry serves 500 households a month, and your contribution will literally help spread the warmth of the season to many of these families. Contact the Mission Office at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org or Children's Ministry at 913-671-2355 with questions.

STAR FAMILIES – The Operation Breakthrough Truck will be in our south parking lot on Sunday, Dec. 10, to receive Christmas donations. Monetary donations to Village Church for Star Families will be accepted for holiday meals through Dec. 10. Just \$30 will feed a family of three or less and \$60 a family of four or more. Note: Operation Breakthrough in the memo of your check. Contact Marilyn Borel at rmborel@sbcglobal.com or 913-708-1917 for more information.

THE GIFT OF HAITI – Looking for a life-changing Christmas gift for a loved one or for yourself? The Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope invites ages 16 & over to consider joining us on a surgical mission trip to Fonds-Parisien, Haiti from April 21-28, 2018. Approximate cost of enriching your or your loved one's life is \$1,500+/- . For more information, visit villagepres.org/hbsc_haiti or contact Lora Garrison (Village's director of international mission) at 913-671-2390 or lora.garrison@villagepres.org.

OFF TO HAITI WITH LOVE – Village members Maria Kindred, Layne Stowers and Dr. Darryl Wallace will be joining Dr. Ted Higgins and his team on their upcoming surgical mission trip to Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope in Fonds-Parisien, Haiti on Jan.12-19. To this team and everyone they encounter while in Haiti, we send our love and prayers for faith and healing.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL – Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, when soprano Kate Breyspraak will present a recital of Christmas and seasonal favorites in the Village on Mission Chapel.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

POINSETTIAS PROVIDE CHRISTMAS CHEER – If you can deliver a poinsettia (or two) to a member who cannot make it to church during the Advent season, come to the Welcome Center any time between services on Sunday, Dec. 10. Poinsettias and instructions will be there waiting for you. Thank you for your caring gift of time.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

LET'S DO ADVENT TOGETHER! Thursday nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Dec. 7 at Village Church-Decoding the Christmas Story; Dec. 14 at Village Church-Christmas Crafting; Dec. 21 at The Brooksider-White Elephant Gift Exchange.

YOUTH MINISTRY

MS COOKIE EXCHANGE TODAY – Middle schoolers join us in the Youth Loft this afternoon from 1-3 p.m. for a cookie exchange. Bring two dozen cookies and you'll be able to mix and match a dozen to keep and another dozen that we'll deliver for police stations and fire houses in town. Come help to spread the holiday cheer!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL (middle school and high school) – 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

SNL (high school youth group) – Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

TWOSDAYS (middle school after school program) – Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

GPS (middle school youth group) – Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

EARLY TABLE (morning devotional for high schoolers-with food!) – Thursdays, 7:30-8:15 a.m. at Zach and Meredith's house at 5401 W. 77th St., Prairie Village.

TRIPS – Registration is now open for our annual January Ski Trip and the Spring Break Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic! Come pick up a form in the Youth Loft or find them online at the address above.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials

You may purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one by sending a check for \$10 payable to Village Church. Clearly print the memorial name and send with your donation to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by Friday, Dec. 8. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.

LIGHT



DARKNESS

TAIZÉ WORSHIP / 6:30 PM / DEC 10 / 9900 MISSION ROAD

2018 Annual Fund Campaign - "Be generous with what God gave you." 1 Peter 4:10

If you have not had time to complete your 2018 pledge, please consider doing it now. Everyone's commitment added together informs the budget committee and the Session on how best to plan for 2018.

Hope continues through generous commitments...

845 pledges received totaling \$3,364,546.

These generous supporters increased their giving by 11.1%

Please return your completed commitment card by mail or online.

For questions, contact Molly at 913-671-2325 or molly.sirridge@villagepres.org.

Gratitude, like love, lives and grows in our hearts.

Thank you for your support.

The life of Village Church continues because of your gracious response to our annual giving. As a gesture of appreciation, the members of the Village Commitment Committee are present today after each service handing out a token of thanks.



Special Offer in the Village Cup Coffee Shop

Looking for a great gift that's thoughtful but easy on you? Look no further than The Village Cup. We have a new 16 oz. stainless steel tumbler, with a bold band of VPC's signature purple just waiting for you. Purchase yours today and get a great deal with our \$30 Tumbler & Gift Card set, saving you \$2 off the tumbler. It's a gift that just keeps giving.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES

A Stranger Came to Town

This is a season of tradition. We read the same stories. We sing the same hymns. We light the purple candles. We kneel at the manger and we have learned the angels' songs by heart. We walk this same journey because the love that fashioned the universe and its billions of galaxies has chosen, in grace, to take on skin and walk where we walk. The Word became flesh. He napped in a manger. He spoke with an accent, and had favorite foods and loved a good story. He was one of us. But he was also a stranger. His heart was bigger, his prayers were deeper, his spirit was freer. This strangeness was unsettling to some. It was magnetic to others. They discovered, and we continue to discover, that this stranger not only reveals truth about God, but he reveals the truth about us. A stranger came to town and sends us on a journey to find our way home.

Dec. 3	This Is the Stranger's Town
Dec. 10	Finally Seeing What Has Been True All Along
Dec. 17	The Good News of the Metanoia Man
Dec. 24	Morning Worship, Lessons and Carols Evening Worship, You Do Not Have to Be Afraid Anymore

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Will Breytspraak, director of music ❖ Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care
Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry and bridge site pastor of Village on Antioch
Marjean Lindquist, director of child care ❖ Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration
Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care ❖ Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate
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 ❖ Ellen Wootton, interim director of children and family ministry
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services is available at villagepres.org.

Click the home page link "Live Sermon and Sermon Archives."

The 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.