



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 4, 2016 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Today we gather around the light of the second candle of Advent—the candle of peace. In an angry world, where so many feel powerless and afraid, peace can seem an impossible dream. But in fact, peace is not a dream or even a concept; peace is a work. Peace is a disciplined, careful work, which begins with small steps.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Fuga in g minor
by J. A. Reincken

Call to Worship

Rev. Hallie Hottle

Where crooked roads need straightening,

prepare the way of the Lord.

Where people walk in darkness,

prepare the way of the Lord.

Where busy lives need stilling,

prepare the way of the Lord.

Where conflict longs for reconciling,

prepare the way of the Lord.

Where prophets' voices need to be heard,

prepare the way of the Lord.

To all of the earth and to all of your people,

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Christine and Ford Maurer (8 a.m.)

Judy and Ian Wiseman (9:30 a.m.)

Gadine Acton and Sharolyn Molle (11 a.m.)



**We light candles this Advent.
Candles of joy despite all the sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire our living.
O Lord, may these candles burn all the year long. Amen.**

*Hymn, No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

*Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
Be patient with us,
for our vision is not as strong as the prophets'
You promise that swords will be beaten into plowshares,
but we see little peace.
You promise that even the trees will clap their hands,
but we see little joy.
You promise that the lion will lie down with the lamb,
but we see little hope.
In a world filled with big, complex problems,
we look for big, complex answers.
We forget that you are the one who comes as a baby,
laid in a manger,
salvation wrapped up in swaddling cloth,
nothing special,
and yet everything we need. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

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

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Tucker (8 a.m.)
Jeff Busche (9:30 a.m.)
Sharolyn Molle (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Malachi 4:1-6 (pg. 875)

Call to Prayer

Prayer
music: Jane Marshall; Quartet (8, 11 a.m.); Alegría (9:30 a.m.)

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

Away in a Manger
arr. Mark Hayes; Judy Bliss, Soprano (8 a.m.)
Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Opened
music: Felix Mendelssohn; Village Voices and Alegría (9:30 a.m.)
The Yearning
music: Craig Courtney; More Love Chorale (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-14 (pg. 934)

Sermon

It Is the Little Things that Matter

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 144

In the Bleak Midwinter
CRANHAM

Offertory

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
arr. Philip Kern; Village Choir

*Response

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

*Benediction

*Response

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Postlude

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from "Christmas Oratorio"
by C. Saint-Saens

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 5, 2016)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Hallie Hottle and are an offering 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 and our mission. Pray for God's world.

Monday, Dec. 5

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

In this season Paul reminds us again and again to stay alert. It doesn't mean we should drink more coffee. There are things we must do in the waiting. Encourage one another. Build each other up. Be Church, to each other. Who can you encourage this week?

Tuesday, Dec. 5

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Here, at the end of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, we hear some instruction for living in the season of anticipation. Our waiting isn't empty. There is much to do. God is coming. Do you believe it?

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Isaiah 6:1-13

We jump over to Isaiah, to hear the prophet's call story. Here is where we get the musical line, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." And here is the line I cannot hear in any voice other than Dr. King's, "How long, O Lord?" This season we're asked to respond in both ways, to stand and lift our heads to the calling of a new thing, and to beg in deep faith, how long, O Lord, until you come again?

Thursday, Dec. 8

God appeared in a manger once, and I'm certain God continues to appear in places we don't expect. This Advent, I'm finding the Holy in a poem written by Ann Weems. The poem entitled "The Coming Of God," is broken up for the next three days. I hope it can help you watch for God in the waiting too. Ask yourself after each reading, where have I seen God today?

*Our God is the One who comes to us
in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a new born child.
Our God is the One who cannot be found
locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary.*

Friday, Dec. 9

*Our God will be where God will be
with no constraints, no predictability.
Our God lives where our God lives,
and destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop the living.
Our God will be born where God will be born,
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.*

Saturday, Dec. 10

*When God is ready, God will come
even to a godforsaken place
like a stable in Bethlehem.
Watch... for you know not when God comes.
Watch, that you might be found
whenever, wherever, God comes.*

The Village Church Choirs & Orchestra
present our 16th Annual

TIDINGS OF JOY



A Celebration of the Season's
Most Beautiful Music

SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 2016
3 & 6 P.M.

VILLAGE SANCTUARY

Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Rd. Prairie Village, KS

FREE ADMISSION

Retiring Offering to Benefit
Haitian Christian Mission

Thank You for your Generous Commitments!

The Village Commitment Committee wishes to thank everyone whose generosity and support enables us to continue to minister to all God's children. As a gesture of appreciation, committee members will be present in Friendship Hall after each service handing out a small gift of thanks. In order for everyone to receive a gift, we ask you to take only one gift per family.

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 use as tools in worship. Please return the bags to the baskets located in the Narthex at the end of the worship service.

HELP DELIVER A POINSETTIA TODAY! - If you can take a poinsettia to a member who cannot make it to church during the Advent season, come to the Welcome Center any time between services today. Look for Ruthie Kline who can fill you in, then choose a card with a name and address, pick up a poinsettia, and deliver it between today and Dec. 7. Feel free to deliver more than one!

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IS THIS EVENING – Join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary to thank God for those 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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON DEC. 14 - Children in grades 4, 5 and 6 look for information to be emailed to you or in children’s Sunday School classrooms. There will be one rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 11, 1-2:35 p.m. Email either jenny.hull@villagepres.org or cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org.

PRESCHOOL CHURCH SCHOOL – Parents may check in their preschool-age child on the first floor in the Preschool wing. Church school classes are available at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

KIDS’ KINGDOM – K–1st GRADES new curricula! Kindergarten meets in Room 311. First Grade meets in Room 303. 9:30-10:30 a.m. **2nd–5th GRADES** – Sign-in elementary (2nd-5th) aged students on the 3rd floor. Check the large bulletin boards located in the Children and Family wing for each grade’s class location. 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Club V6 (6th Grade)** – Relevant discussions for today’s ‘tweens. Room 302. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Upcoming Village U classes:

THE KINGS VS. THE SHEPHERDS - The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell different stories about the birth of Jesus. The wise men only appear in Matthew and the shepherds only appear in Luke. Why is that? In these three sessions, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will examine both the familiar and perhaps the unfamiliar components of these two stories. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7-21. Room 127.

GOD IN THE ARTS: HAMILTON AND RENT - *Hamilton* is a story of our founding fathers told in a urban musical style with the entire cast being of mixed race and ethnic diversity. Before *Hamilton* another show, *Rent*, took the nation by storm twenty years earlier. Both address the challenges and the terrors of their time. Rev. Len Carrell will look at each of these shows and the theological marks they have left on our world. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 14 & 21. Room 126.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES meet at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Check villagepres.org for more details.
9:30 A.M.

NAMES OF THE MESSIAH - In the combined Sunday morning Village Forum and Foundations of Faith classes, Dr. Rodger Nishioka continues the study of Isaiah 9:6 where the prophet lists four names for the Messiah. Today, we explore what it means that the Messiah is “The Mighty God.” Next Sunday, Dec. 11, we will explore the name of “Everlasting Father” and finally, on Dec. 18, we will study the name of “Prince of Peace.” All are welcome in Rooms 126-127.

10:45 A.M.

INQUIRERS - The class is reading and discussing the late Marcus Borg's thought-provoking and inspirational book, *Convictions*. Borg, one of the world's pre-eminent scholars of the Historical Jesus, concludes his long career with a heart-felt examination and recitation of "How I Learned What Matters Most." Join the book review and discussion of Borg's memories, conversions, and convictions in the Inquirers class. Be a part of the effort to study and celebrate "what matters most" to those who seek to better understand and follow Jesus. Led by Don Wilson in Room 124.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER DEC. 7 – Soup and baked potato bar, one meat soup, one vegetarian and baked potatoes with various toppings. Each Wednesday, price is \$7 for full buffet, \$6 for salad bar and dessert. \$3-children ages 3-10. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are required by noon every Monday. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners. RSVP for Christmas Dinner on Dec. 14 by next Sunday, Dec. 11.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RECYCLING DRIVE-NOW-JAN. 8 - The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church is once again partnering with Southeast Enterprises to recycle Christmas lights. Now through Sunday, Jan. 8, please bring your old or broken Christmas lights to Village Church and place them in the barrels that are located inside the north and south entrances of the church. Call Gary Tegtmeier at 913-362-8596 if you have questions.

EAC EVENT - The Environmental Action Committee is co-sponsoring a presentation about "How Climate Change Affects the Developing World." At 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, in Room 127, Dr. Rick Randolph (chief medical officer of Heart to Heart International) will discuss how and why climate change affects the developing world differently than the developed world.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – During December the Food Pantry is collecting canned meals for the clients: ravioli, spaghetti, canned salmon, chicken, tamales, etc. The Clothes Closet is accepting SMALL Christmas decorations. Used Christmas trees cannot be accepted, but ornaments and lights are always appreciated by the clients. Of course, warm clothing, coats, gloves, socks and boots are always needed in winter. Thank you!

STAR FAMILIES - The Operation Breakthrough Truck will be in our south parking lot from 9 a.m.-noon next Sunday, Dec. 11, to receive donations. Monetary donations to Village Church for Star Families will be accepted for holiday meals through Dec. 11. 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.

O CHRISTMAS TREE...O CHRISTMAS TREE - A Village tradition, our Hat and Mitten Trees has returned for the holiday season. Now through Dec. 25, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens 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 Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL - Join us at 12:15 p.m. this Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Village Chapel for our next Second Thursday Recital. Pianist Karen Kushner will play a 30-minute program of Chopin.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICE IS NEXT SUNDAY - If you are tired or looking for a chance to catch your breath during this busy holiday season, join us for an evening worship service at 6:30 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 11, at the VCCFDC at 9900 Mission Road. Modeled after worship from the Taizé community in France, the service includes song, silence, and scripture — all experienced at a quiet, reflective pace. We will also take communion together.

COUPLE'S COMMUNICATION CLASS— Improve your relationship with your partner by learning better communication skills. This four-week series starts Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 6-8 p.m. in Room 232. Dinner is provided and childcare is available. Registration is limited to 10 couples; the class fee per couple is \$50 and is due by Tuesday, Dec. 27. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

BIER AND BIBLE – Every Thursday night, 7 p.m., KC Bier Co. Every week this fall we'll learn to read the Bible together, while continuing to grow in all that it means to be community. All 20s and 30s welcome!

MORNING PRAYER AND BIBLE FOR MOMS! – 9:30 a.m. Wednesday mornings, in the Chapel. We'll pray for each other, then learn a little about the Bible together. How do you teach this book to kids, when we know we don't know enough about it ourselves? Let's learn together. All 20s and 30s moms welcome!

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at KC Bier Company. Wear your best Christmas sweater and brush up on your Christmas trivia. Admission requires one package of diapers, to be donated to Happy Bottoms (provider of free diapers to those in need!). Child care available at Village Church with reservation by tomorrow. Signup.com/go/VillagePresYA.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft Room 333/332.

CHEER – High school youth group tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome for a night of discussion, amazing people and a great time!

GPS – Middle school youth group, meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. Join us for a great night of people, games and conversation. We hope to see you there!

TWOSDAYS – All 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us from 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons in the Youth Loft for fun and food!

Support Village just by shopping AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that offers the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by you.

When shopping Amazon this holiday season, just log into smile.amazon.com to shop and pick United Presbyterian Church in the USA Village United Presbyterian Church as your charitable organization and in return, Village Church will receive a donation from AmazonSmile Foundation. It's that easy!



UPCOMING VILLAGE CHURCH ADVENT ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIALS - A poinsettia that decorates the church this Advent season may be purchased in memory of a loved one. Make your check (\$10) payable to Village Church, clearly printing the memorial name with your donation. Send to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by this Friday, Dec. 9. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14, IN FRIENDSHIP HALL – Chef Emily and her culinary team will create a scrumptious hotel-style buffet including a carving station, tossed salad, cheese, fresh fruit and assorted cheesecakes. Cost is \$7 a person, \$3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by Sunday, Dec. 11, to 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org. Enjoy Christmas caroling from 6-6:30 p.m.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14, IN THE SANCTUARY - See the greatest story ever told through the eyes of the children at Village. Come for Wednesday Night Dinner, and stay for the pageant directly following.

VCCFDC PANCAKE DINNER WITH SANTA – 6 P.M. FRIDAY, DEC. 16, IN FRIENDSHIP HALL – The Village Church Child & Family Development Center will host its annual “Pancake Dinner with Santa” at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall. Chris Cakes will be serving up all- you-can-eat pancakes. Get your child's picture taken with Santa. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children age 2 and up. Children under 2 eat free. Contact Linda Harmon at 913-671-2310 or linda.harmon@villagepres.org for tickets. Come to the Sanctuary at 5 p.m., and enjoy the preschoolers' version of the Christmas Story.

Prayer for Our Session

Our ruling elders meet tomorrow evening, Dec. 5, for their regular Session meeting. At this meeting, they will discuss and likely decide on the recommendation to launch a satellite congregation at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley. As they gather for this important decision that will shape the nature of our ministry, any interested persons are invited to come to the Chapel from 6-7 p.m. to join in prayer for our leaders. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will be there to lead the prayers. Come at any time during the hour. Come for five minutes or 15 minutes or 50 minutes. We will pray for the Stanley congregation and for each of our elders by name and ask the Holy Spirit to guide their deliberations and decisions.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

What Are You Waiting For?

The Advent season is a season of waiting. We will wait in lines and we will wait in traffic. That's part of the season. But the spiritual waiting that we do is different. The waiting we do as people of faith is determined by our hope. And waiting in line is passive, but Christian waiting is active. It takes all you have. So, what are you waiting for? For what do you hope?

Nov. 27	What Are You Waiting For?
Dec. 4	It Is the Little Things that Matter
Dec. 11	A God Who Knows Your Name
Dec. 18	A God Who Knows Their Name
Christmas Eve	So, This Is What We Look Like
Christmas Day	The Songs of Christmas

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist ❖ Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care
Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of children and family ministry ❖ Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry
Marjean Lindquist, director of child care ❖ Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration
Ryan Main, interim director of music ❖ Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care
Dr. Rodger Nishioka, director of adult educational ministry ❖ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music
Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship & 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

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 8 a.m. Sanctuary worship service is broadcast live on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.

Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available for worship. Ask an usher if you need these items.

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.