



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 10, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The Bible speaks in a certain style called “apocalyptic language.” This passage in Matthew fits that genre. It speaks of the “return of the Son of Man.” We describe this as “God’s Promised Day.” This story provides a metaphor for the ultimate hope of Christian faith—that the day will come when the life of Jesus is normative, and all of life is as God intends. It is a bold and courageous hope.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

An Appalachian Christmas (8, 9:30 a.m.)

arr. Tammy Waldrop; Village Ringers

O Little Town of Bethlehem (11 a.m.)

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; Morning Bells

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

In this holy season of Advent, we wait.

God is coming to us.

As we wait, we listen.

The Word of God, Jesus the Christ,

will speak good news to all people.

As we wait and listen, we watch.

The Spirit is on the move,

drawing us together and filling our hearts with hope.

*Hymn, No. 133 (v. 1-3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mariann, Charlie, Sophie, Sienna and Autumn Sun (8 a.m.)

Melinda and Mark Tiemeyer (9:30 a.m.)

Cyndi and Bill Seifert (11 a.m.)

*Hymn, No. 121 (v. 1)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
Forgive us for the times we are too afraid to hope,
too tired to dream,
too angry to listen,
too wounded to trust,
too certain to wonder.

Kindle in us a renewed sense of faith.

Lift our faces to look for your light. (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

Call to Prayer (Choir, then Choir & Congregation)



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

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	Gesù Bambino Yon/Schweizer; Rachel Priest, soprano; Village Choir
Prayer for Illumination	Jim Borthwick (8 a.m.) Laura Edgington (9:30 a.m.) Elizabeth McKell (11 a.m.)
Scripture Reading	Matthew 24:29-31, 36-44 (pg. 903)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 106	<i>Prepare the Way, O Zion</i> BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN
Offertory	<i>Hark! Christmas Bells</i> (8 a.m.) arr. John A. Behnke; Village Ringers
	<i>What Star Is This?</i> (9:30 a.m.) arr. Richard Shephard; More Love Chorale
	<i>Ding Dong Merrily on High</i> (11 a.m.) arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; Morning Bells

*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

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

People, Look East
arr. Martin Shaw; Village Choir

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Postlude

He is Born!

Richard Hudson

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns



LIGHT & DARKNESS

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

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 11, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt 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. 11

Amos 7:1-9

What are we to do when scripture sounds harsh? The prophets are filled with strong language ... so we do well to remember they are also filled with faith. It is ok to read some of these words and come away with questions or discomfort. In these moments, though, remember our Presbyterian approach to scripture: everything is read and interpreted according to the Law of Love. Love is ultimately what shapes and motivates God. Where can you find love in today's reading?

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Amos 7:10-17

Amos is one of the more well-known prophets, and here he says, "But I am not a prophet, nor a prophet's son." He then goes on to say that nevertheless, God has called him to offer a prophetic word. God often sees more in us than we see in ourselves. When did you last feel called outside of your comfort zone? Remember that when God calls, God equips. God won't ever ask you to do more than God knows you are capable of doing ... even if you don't always share the same level of confidence!

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Amos 8:1-14

More hard words. Flannery O'Connor, a southern writer, was once asked why she often created such disturbing characters. Her response: "To the hard of hearing, you shout, and to the almost blind, you draw large, startling figures." Sometimes the prophets use sharp rhetoric to catch our attention. Where might God be calling you to pay attention today?

Thursday, Dec. 14

Amos 9:1-10

If nothing else, God's power and might comes through clearly in this text. We sometimes tremble in the face of power. Earthly power is often deserving of such hesitancy. God's power, though, is of a different sort. When in your life have you been appreciative of a powerful God? When have you needed to know that God is more powerful than we are?

Friday, Dec. 15

Haggai 1:1-15

Twice in this reading, the Lord says, "Consider how you have fared." This is a worthy exercise. Regardless of how the recent days have been, look back and assess what life has looked like, where blessing and challenge have come, and where God has been active. Consider how you have fared.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Haggai 2:1-9

God says to God's people, "Take courage." Sometimes that is exactly the word we need to hear. Life is not always easy (you know this already). Sometimes we need encouragement not only from the One who loves us, but the One who brought all of creation into being. This One is the One who can see the entirety of human history, and is always leading us toward wholeness and hope. "Take courage," God says. Everything is going to be okay. Maybe not today, and maybe not tomorrow, but ultimately, everything is going to be okay. We're going to make it. We have it on God's authority.



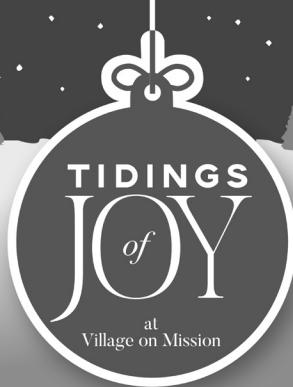
6 P.M. Friday, DEC. 15

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY - Following the 11 a.m. worship service.

STAR FAMILIES – The Operation Breakthrough truck is in our south parking lot today to receive Christmas donations. Monetary donations to Village Church for Star Families will be accepted for holiday meals through today. 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 rborel@sbcglobal.com or 913-708-1917 for more information.

TAIZÉ IS TONIGHT – The theme for this evening's service is Light and Darkness. Join us for a service filled with candle lighting, silent reflection, music and communion. Taizé is held at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Church Child & Family Development Center at 9900 Mission Road. Stay after for a potluck dinner. We are providing mac and cheese and drinks; you bring the rest!

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.

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 – Please join Rev. Len Carrell and Dino O'Dell- Sunday, Dec. 17, in Friendship Hall after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Kids' Kingdom, K-6th graders, should attend Sunday School and then their teachers will escort them to the pageant where parents pick them up at the end of the show. Preschoolers are welcome to come with their families.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

VILLAGE U SPRING 2018 – The catalogs will be available after Dec. 29, and you are invited to choose a class, or two, or three, or more to learn more about art, Christian life, health and wellness and much more! Registration for Village members opens at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, and for community members on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 9 a.m.

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.

VILLAGE FORUM–Advent Class – Today the class continues our reflections on 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

CHRISTMAS DINNER – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in Friendship Hall. Cost is \$7 per person. The includes a meat station: carved roast beef (GF), chicken caprese (GF), potato/vegetable station, wild rice primavera (V & GF), green bean amandine (V & GF), glazed baby carrots (V & GF), dinner rolls and cheesecake. RSVP by noon tomorrow, Dec. 11, to liz.middleton@villagepres.org. Wednesday Night Dinners resume Jan. 10.

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

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – We continue to have a demand for canned fruit from our clients, particularly during the Winter months. Please pick up a few cans on your next shopping trip. The Clothes Closet is asking for children's winter coats and inspirational books and bibles during the Christmas season. Your donations make our mission a success!

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

JOY OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING (DEC. 24) – 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%) and the Christmas Project offering provides assistance to local social service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs (100%). Green envelopes for this offering have been placed in the hymnal slot in the pew in front of you.

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

VIVALDI'S GLORIA IN WORSHIP next Sunday, Dec. 17, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. services! The Village Voices, conducted by Matthew Shepard, will sing excerpts of Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the chamber orchestra in our morning worship services.

VILLAGE VOICES ALUMNI CHRISTMAS EVE – All alumni of Village Voices are invited to join current members to sing for the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Warm up at 10 p.m. in Room 14.

TIDINGS OF JOY CONCERTS – Please join us for the 17th Annual Tidings of Joy, a musical celebration of the season's most beautiful music, at 3 and 6 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 17, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. Featuring the Village Church Choirs and Orchestra, and introducing the Tidings of Joy Children's Chorus. The program will also showcase the new Village pipe organ. Admission is free. A retiring offering will benefit Community LINC - the 2017/2018 Signature Mission for Village Church. Child care is available by emailing marjean@villagepres.org for a reservation.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

THE POINSETTIAS ARE HERE! – Today is Poinsettia Sunday! 250 bright red, cheerful poinsettias are in the Welcome Center and need kind deliverers to take them to members who cannot make it to church this Advent season. If you can help deliver, come to the Welcome Center anytime between services. Volunteers will greet you with instructions and information. Thank you for helping to spread some Christmas cheer.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF STARTS IN JANUARY – Growing Through Grief is a five-week class where you can learn more about the grieving process, meet others who understand your struggles, and be reminded that God is with us through even the hardest of moments. The next series is from 4:30-5:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Jan. 10-Feb. 7, in Room 124. There is no cost, but registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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 – Our upcoming January Ski Trip and Spring Break Mission Trip are currently full. Please contact youth@villagepres.org if you would like to be put on the waitlist.

TWOSDAYS TEAM – Want to be a part of the team that creates a welcoming, friendly and safe space for middle schoolers on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5:30 p.m.? We are looking for volunteers to help us continue this fast-growing program. Contact zach.walker@villagepres.org or jenna.soltys@villagepres.org to find out how you can make a difference!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Village on Mission

- 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Lessons and Carols
- 5 p.m. Children & Family Worship In The Gathering Style
- 7 and 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services
- 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

Village on Antioch

- 9:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols
- 7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

Many of you are completing your 2017 pledges this month – thank you!

If you wish to have your contribution credited to 2017, please submit to the Business Office by noon on Dec. 29.

Gifts of Stock and Securities

Many of you gift through a transfer of stocks and securities. We have an account set up to receive these transfers. For this information and to share with us your plan to transfer stock, please call Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325 or Kathy Lueckert, 913-671-2365.

Village on Mission Preschool Enrollment

Village Church on Mission Weekday Preschool. Enrollment will be held the week of Jan. 16 for Village Church members and current Village Preschool families. Community enrollment begins Monday, Jan. 22. All enrollment forms can be found online at villagepres.org under Connect> Children and Families>Preschool. Village Church Weekday Preschool is a part-time, school year program for three-, four-, and five-year-old children. For more information, contact Preschool Director Sarah McKee at sarah.mckee@villagepres.org or 913-671-2338.

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...

906 pledges received totaling \$3,541,190.

These generous supporters increased their giving by 11%

Please return your completed commitment card by mail or online.

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

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.

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.

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| 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 |
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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
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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.