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## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

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

### ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Luke tells us a good bit about Zechariah and Elizabeth. We are told a great deal about their son, John the Baptist. But then the story turns to Mary. Mary was visited by an angel. We know that she was young; most suspect she was a teenager. We know she was engaged to Joseph. But we know very little else about her. Why do you suppose Gabriel picked Mary?

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Cradle song*  
arr. David Williams (8 a.m.)

*Hark! Christmas Bells*  
by John A. Behnke; Village Ringers (9:30 a.m.)

*Joy to the World*  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner; Morning Bells (11 a.m.)

Introit (11 a.m.)

*A Shoot Shall Come Forth*  
music: Richard Horn; Village Voices

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 hope to be born in us.**

Here it is easier to remember the promises of God.

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Diane and Ford Brent (8 a.m.)

Tami Greenberg, Mary Chris Blickhan, Ben and Alex Blickhan (9:30 a.m.)

Alice and Al Eidson (11 a.m.)



Advent Prayer

*adapted from words by Howard Thurman*

**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. 112

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*  
SUSSEX CAROL

\*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

# PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

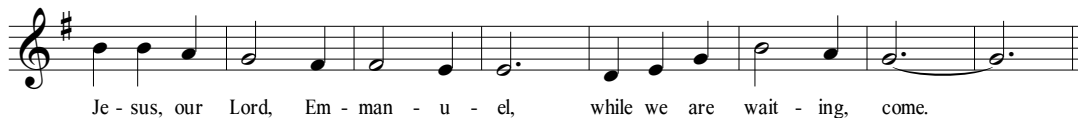
Prayer for Illumination

Sandy Linson (8 a.m.)  
Kathy Lueckert (9:30 a.m.)  
Kim Higgins (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45 (pg. 932)

Call to Prayer



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

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
arr. Paul Wohlgenuth; Village Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-56 (pg. 932)

Sermon

*A God Who Knows Your Name*

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

# RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn, No. 115

*Away In A Manger*  
MUELLER

Offertory

*Stile Nacht*  
arr. John Leavitt (8 a.m.)

*He is Born*  
by William White and Jefferey Hall; Village Ringers (9:30 a.m.)

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner; Morning Bells (11 a.m.)

\*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. 134

*Joy To The World*  
ANTIOCH

\*Benediction

\*Response

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Postlude

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying!*  
by Emma Lou Diemer

*\*All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

## THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 12, 2016)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Dr. Rodger Nishioka and are an offering for your own personal devotion. In this Advent season as we await the birth of the Christ child, these scriptures are drawn from the text written by Charles Jenner for the oratorio *Messiah* by George Frederic Handel composed in 1741. Listen to a recording as you read and pray through this week.

### **Monday, Dec. 12**

**Isaiah 40:1-4**

The voice of a tenor opens Handel's oratorio with these beautiful words. They are words of comfort for Hebrews whose nation has been conquered and are living in exile in Babylon. There, as strangers in a distant land, they are bereft and wonder whether they will ever see their home again. These are words of comfort, too, for we who anticipate the coming of the birth of Christ, the savior of the world.

### **Tuesday, Dec. 13**

**Isaiah 40:5**

The first chorus of *Messiah* is this wondrous verse. The message is three fold. First, God is about to reveal God's glory. This is God's doing and not our own. We have done nothing to deserve this. Second, the revelation of God's glory will be seen by all people, not simply a select few. And finally, in similar ways to God speaking creation into being (And God said, "Let there be light" in Genesis 1:3), God speaks Jesus into being. Listen. What is God speaking to you today?

### **Wednesday, Dec. 14**

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

Isaiah makes much of the "suffering servant" theme and these two choruses early in the second movement remind us that another has borne the weight of our sinfulness, our straying from God. Like sheep, Isaiah writes and the chorus sings, we tend to stray from God. It is our sinful nature. We cannot save ourselves. We need another who is willing to suffer on our behalf. Quiet your soul on this day and give thanks to God for the life of Jesus, the suffering servant, who bore our sins even to death.

### **Thursday, Dec. 15**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

This is great news! The prophet Zechariah calls on the people to rejoice. They have returned to their land after exile in Babylon and are beginning to reconstruct the holy temple so that God may once again have a home. Part of Handel's genius is his ability to compose a score that so powerfully captures the text. This soprano solo is an example of that. Listen as her voice lifts from note to note. The tune gives the singer and listener a sense of joy!

### **Friday, Dec. 16**

**Job 19:23-27**

Job is a pawn in a cosmic battle between Satan and God. Satan tells God that, of course, Job is faithful because he has a rich life. So God allows Satan to hurl all kinds of suffering at Job – the loss of his family, wealth, status, and his health. In the midst of his tragedies, Job has the courage to make this incredible faith claim: "For I know that my Redeemer lives." This is sung by a soprano to open the third movement. In all situations in life, may we also be able to make such a bold claim!

### **Saturday, Dec. 17**

**Revelation 19:6-16**

The story goes that when King George II first heard the orchestra and chorus sing "Hallelujah" at the close of the second movement, he stood up. Since the king stood up, all in the building stood, too. "Hallelujah" is a Hebrew term meaning "praise Yahweh," and in the New Testament it occurs only in Revelation. This moving chorus praises God at Christ's second coming, and it is frequently sung at Christmas and Easter. It will be performed tomorrow afternoon by the Village Church Choir and Orchestra at the Tidings of Joy celebration. Let us all remember Christ's birth and his second coming and praise God!

Note: A marvelous and very readable small book about the scriptures and Handel's *Messiah* is titled: *Every Valley* compiled by Jessica Miller Kelley and published in 2014 by Westminster/John Knox Press. A copy is in the church library. Check it out.

The Village Church Choirs & Orchestra  
present our 16th Annual

TIDINGS OF  
JOY

A Celebration of the Season's  
Most Beautiful Music

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

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VILLAGE SANCTUARY

Village Presbyterian Church  
6641 Mission Rd. Prairie Village, KS

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**FREE ADMISSION**

Retiring Offering to Benefit  
Haitian Christian Mission

## 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.

**STAR FAMILIES** - The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in our south parking lot from 9 a.m.-noon today to receive donations. Today is the last day to make donations for Star Families' holiday meals. Just \$30 will feed a family of three or less and \$60 a family of four or more. Please note: Operation Breakthrough in the memo of your check. Contact Marilyn Borel at [rmborel@sbcglobal.com](mailto:rmborel@sbcglobal.com) or 913-708-1917 for more info.

**DRMP CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF CHOCOLATE & COFFEE** - Today the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church is offering Santo Domingo Coffee and Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars in Friendship Hall. Proceeds benefit DRMP Child Health Promotion, an empowering program to help children living in poor sugar cane communities of the DR to have healthier lives and brighter futures. For a \$10 donation, you may receive two dark chocolate bars in flavors of your choice or a 1 lb. bag of Dominican coffee.

**FIND PEACE IN THE SEASON AT TAIZÉ TONIGHT** - If you are searching for a quiet moment to reflect on the peace and promise of this holy season, join us this evening at 6:30 p.m. at the VCCFDC at 9900 Mission Road. Taizé includes song, silence, scripture and communion — all experienced at a quiet, reflective pace.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL TODAY** - 1-2:30 p.m. in the Chapel. All interested children in grades 4, 5 and 6 are welcome. Pageant will be Wednesday, Dec. 14, immediately after Wednesday Night Dinner. For information email either [jenny.hull@villagepres.org](mailto:jenny.hull@villagepres.org) or [cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org](mailto: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

**WATCH FOR THE SPRING 2017 VILLAGE U CATALOG...COMING JAN. 4!**

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee for the spring term; reservations will be required in advance.
- Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees are noted in the class listing.
- You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email.

**Registration for Village U 2017 spring term:**

- **For Village Church members: Registration begins on Wednesday, Jan. 11.**
- **For non-members: Registration begins on Tuesday, Jan. 17.**

**Remaining Fall 2016 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. Rooms 126 and 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 15.

## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER DEC. 14** – Christmas Dinner – RESERVATIONS DUE today! Hotel-style buffet including: carving station, alternate meat choice, several hot side dishes, tossed salad, cheese display, fresh fruit, and assorted cheesecakes. Call 913-671-2359 or email [liz.middleton@villagepres.org](mailto:liz.middleton@villagepres.org) or go to [villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners](http://villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners).

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RECYCLING DRIVE-NOW-JAN. 8** - Now through Sunday, Jan. 8, 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.

## MISSION

**THE FOOD PANTRY** – We continue to accept canned meals for clients during December- canned salmon and chicken, beef stew, ravioli, Spaghettios, tamales, etc. Please be generous, as each household gets two cans each month. With these colder temps, the Clothes Closet continues to need winter clothing, scarves, gloves, hats and blankets. They are accepting small Christmas decorations to delight the clients. Thanks for all your donations.

**O CHRISTMAS TREE...O CHRISTMAS TREE** - Our Hat and Mitten Trees have 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. Contact Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or [deborah.white@villagepres.org](mailto:deborah.white@villagepres.org) with any questions.

**JOY OFFERING DEC. 18** - The Joy offering provides support to retired church workers and eight Presbyterian schools and colleges and the Christmas Project offering provides assistance to local social service agencies that help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs. Green envelopes for this offering have been placed in the hymnal slots in the church pews.

## PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

**BETTER COMMUNICATION FOR A BETTER NEW YEAR** – Improve your relationship with your partner by learning better communication skills! Couple's Communication is four-week series starting Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 6-8 p.m. in Room 232. Dr. Dave Ehman will facilitate. 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](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

**GROWING THROUGH GRIEF BEGINS ON JAN. 11** - 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. 11-Feb. 8, in Room 124. The series is offered at no cost. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org) for more information or to register.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**ADVENT TOGETHER** – Every Thursday night, 7 p.m., Village Church (outside Rev. Hallie's Office). Guided by Bonhoeffer's reflections on Advent, we'll read, think, conspire to change the world, eat pizza and enjoy one another. All 20s and 30s welcome!

**MORNING PRAYER AND BIBLE FOR MOMS!** – 9:30 a.m. Wednesday mornings, in the Village Church Chapel. This is our last week! Connect before Christmas, and look forward to getting together again in the new year!

**YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY** – TOMORROW, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at KC Bier Company. Our favorite brewery is reserved for an epic community Christmas party! 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!).

## 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!

**STUDY HALL** – From 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 18, we will be holding a study hall for all high school students. We will provide snacks and a nice studying atmosphere. In the Youth Loft, Rooms 333/332.

**WINTER PROGRAM BREAK** – We will be on break from all of our regular programming from Dec. 19-Jan. 7. Programming will return on Jan. 8 with Sunday School and Cheer!

### Satellite Congregation

At the December Session Meeting the Session voted unanimously to pursue establishing a satellite congregation at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley site. It will be called Village on Antioch. Next steps will be to determine the specific financial impact on the budget for 2017, in hopes that the financial resources are available, paving the way for a final approval. We will also be open to volunteers who might wish to help launch Village on Antioch by committing to worship at our Antioch site for a year.

**As a thank you, Village Commitment Committee has a gift for you.** For those who did not receive the ceramic Christmas ornament last Sunday, we still have a limited quantity available. To reserve your ornament and schedule a pick-up, call Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325. The custom ornament has a picture of the newly renovated chancel and pipe organ.

Thank you for your volunteer efforts,  
your talents and  
your generous gifts!





## UPCOMING VILLAGE CHURCH ADVENT ACTIVITIES

**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](mailto:linda.harmon@villagepres.org) for tickets. Come to the Sanctuary at 5 p.m., and enjoy the preschoolers’ version of the Christmas Story.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Saturday, Dec. 24** -5 p.m. Children and Family Worship with music by The Gathering Band  
7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services; 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service.

**Sunday, Dec. 25** – We will have one worship service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. Children are encouraged to worship with their families in the Sanctuary.

### **Time is running out!**

If you have not had time to complete your 2017 commitment, please consider doing it now. Everyone’s commitment, added together, informs the budget committee and the Session on how best to plan for 2017.

Please take a moment to help us make 2017 a great year here at Village Church.

- You can go to <http://www.villagepres.org/commitment-form.html> Just complete the form and submit.
- Another way is to complete the form that was mailed to you and return it in the envelope that was enclosed with the form.
- Finally, if you need help in completing your form, call Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325. She will be glad to help you.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

# 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 |
| <b>Dec. 11</b> | <b>A God Who Knows Your Name</b>    |
| Dec. 18        | A God Who Knows Their Name          |
| Christmas Eve  | So, This Is What We Look Like       |
| Christmas Day  | The Songs of Christmas              |

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## 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

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*Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services is available at [villagepres.org](http://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.*