



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 17, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Through the centuries of the church's worship, John the Baptist's story is a frequent scripture lesson during Advent. Frequency has not, however, diminished the apparent disconnect between the spirit we carry during Advent and the prophetic preaching of the wilderness prophet. Were John to fill our pulpit today, perhaps he would alter his tone with us. Or, perhaps we would benefit by listening a bit closer to the *metanoia* man.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Noel
by Louis-Claude Daquin

Introit

Domini Fili Unigenite (from Gloria)
music: Antonio Vivaldi; Village Voices and Chamber Orchestra
Domini Fili unigenites, Jesu Christe
Lord, the only begotten son, Jesus Christ

Call to Worship

Dr. Rodger Nishioka

We await the birth of Christ,
the one who reveals God to us.
He comes as a sparkling light,
twinkling with joy and playfulness.
He comes to us as softened light,
creating a healing space in the shadows.
He comes to us as a focused spotlight,
bringing truth and justice into stark relief.
He comes to us as everyday light,
brightening the ordinary world around us.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
He is coming to shine among us.

*Hymn, No. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Beth, Greg and Nate Vonnahme (8 a.m.)
Lara, Tyler, Jack and Will Shelton (9:30 a.m.)
Lisa, Robbie and Margaret Veglahn (11 a.m.)

*Sung Response

Joy to the World
ANTIOCH

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

*Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
Be patient with us,
for we struggle to see.
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

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6 (pg. 934)

Call to Prayer

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits



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

Gloria
music: Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Glory to God in the Highest

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7-18 (pg. 934)

Sermon

The Good News of the Metanoia Man

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Offertory

Et in Terra Pax (from *Gloria*)
music: Vivaldi

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis
And on earth peace to all people of good will.

*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

*Hymn, No. 146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Quoniam Tu Solus Sanctus (from *Gloria*)
music: Vivaldi

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.*
For you alone are holy, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ!

*Postlude

Gloria Peru
Emily Maxton Porter

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

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 18, 2017)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Dr. Rodger Nishioka 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. 18

Isaiah 11:1-3

These are frantic and busy days for many. With preparations for Christmas, "to do" lists are long. Yet God is present and acting in our lives and with our busyness, it is easy to miss God's faithful activity. The writer of Isaiah reminds us that even in something that may look lifeless such as a tree stump, a small shoot can start to grow. The prophet is describing the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. As you go about your day, be attentive to ways, large and small, that God is at work in our world.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Hebrews 6:9-12

Advent is a time of waiting. Theologian Simone Weil wrote that "Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life." Theologian Henri Nouwen reminds us that patience comes from the Latin word, *patior*, which means to suffer. To be patient, in a way, is to suffer. So the writer of Hebrews gives us words of hope that while we wait, "we are confident of better things" that will come!

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Matthew 6:25-34

American philosopher William James defined a "wise person" as "someone who knows what is worthy of their attention." He wrote that foolish persons pay attention to everything. Increasingly, we hear of auto accidents caused by "distracted driving." Jesus tells us not to be distracted but to "strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness." When we do that, the rest of life seems to fall more easily into place; and we do not worry about foolish things.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Romans 12:1-2

Professor David Elkind, in an important book about adolescence, writes about the "patchwork self." In the patchwork self, the teenager compartmentalizes their physical self from their emotional self from their intellectual self from their spiritual self and on and on. Elkind says this patchwork construction of self is both damaging and unsustainable. The Apostle Paul understands this. In today's reading, he tells us that our bodies and our minds are all for God's glory. As Christians, we cannot live patchwork lives. Our whole selves are in Christ for Christ.

Friday, Dec. 22

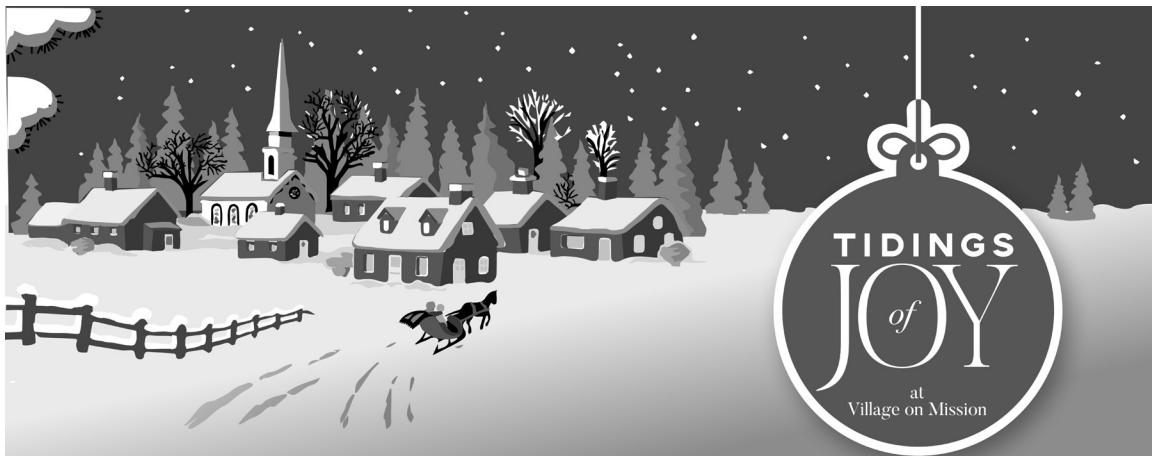
Matthew 11:28-30

Our senior pastor, Tom Are, rightly describes the incarnation as "God's love story." He tells us that God could not stand being apart from human beings so God came to us to be among us in Jesus Christ. As we wait for God's love story to unfold on Christmas Day, Jesus reminds us that God's love is available to us every day. Jesus invites all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens to come to him. In Jesus, we will find rest for the weary and strength for living.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Isaiah 25:6-10

Waiting is hard work. I remember the anticipation of Christmas morning as a child. In our home, we had to read both stories about Jesus' birth before we prayed and opened our presents. It was hard to wait to open presents. On this day before Christmas Eve, we read the words of the prophet Isaiah who describes what happens when the waiting is over. There will be a great celebration, death will be defeated, and there will be no more sadness. That is what we proclaim with the incarnation. Christ's birth on Christmas day ushers in a new age when God will bring peace to the whole world!



Performed by the **VILLAGE CHOIRS & ORCHESTRA**
Introducing the **TIDINGS OF JOY CHILDREN'S CHORUS**
3 & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17



FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

SPRING VILLAGE U CLASS REGISTRATION

Opens Jan. 10 for church members
Jan. 16 for the community

See the course catalog at
villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/SING-ALONG – Please join Rev. Len Carrell and Dino O'Dell today 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 can pick them up at the end of the show. Preschoolers are welcome to come with their families.

TIDINGS OF JOY CONCERTS ARE TODAY - Please join us for the 17th Annual Tidings of Joy concerts at 3 and 6 p.m. today 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.

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

PLEASE NOTE: NO Sunday School, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Child care is available for ages 0-3.

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. See signs for gathering rooms. All will be escorted to Friendship Hall for Pageant/Sing-along at 10:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS – No morning rehearsals today, Dec. 24 or 31. Both choirs sing at 5 p.m. service on Christmas Eve (warm-up at 4 p.m. in the chapel).

BAPTISM – The first Baptism Sunday for 2018 is scheduled for Jan. 21. A Baptism Education class is offered for all families new to Village Baptism on Jan. 10. Contact Kate Ruecker in the Children and Family Ministry office at 913-671-2350 or kate.ruecker@villagepres.org for more information.

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. The class enjoys thoughtful conversation. This study is DVD-based so each session will feature a clip as the basis for discussion.

VILLAGE FORUM–Advent Class – The series of Advent classes led by Rev. Jay McKell concludes today. Come contribute to our conversation as we think about the names of Jesus and how they shape our understanding of him and his ministry. 9:30 a.m. Rooms 126-127.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – 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 – The Food Pantry is asking for Bibles and other inspirational books during the remainder of the Christmas season - and they are also continuing to ask for canned fruit. The Clothes Closet has no children's winter coats! Perhaps you have one that your child has outgrown, please bring it to church on your next visit - the Closet will find a new home for it. Thank you.

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

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.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF STARTS IN JANUARY – The next Growing Through Grief series is from 4:30-5:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Jan.10-Feb. 7, in Room 124. During this five-week class you can learn more about the grieving process, meet others who understand your struggles, and be reminded that God is with us through even our hardest moments. You'll receive your own copy of *Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart*, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. 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.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at The Brookside; 6330 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, Mo. All 20's and 30's invited to a White Elephant Gift Exchange and Christmas Party! Bring friends. Let's celebrate Christmas, together.

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) – meets tonight, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

PROGRAMS ON WINTER BREAK DEC. 18–JAN. 6 – All our weekly programs will be on Winter Break starting tomorrow (Dec. 18). We will resume our regular schedule on Sunday, Jan. 7. See you in 2018!

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!

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

Generous gifts to Village, such as yours, supports our vision of being a family of faith actively shaped by the life of Christ to love one another, provide leadership for the transformation of our communities, and serve the world.

Hope continues through generous commitments...

951 pledges received totaling \$3,762,995.

These generous supporters increased their giving by 13%

If you have sent in your 2018 commitment – thank you! If you have not done so yet, please consider your commitment, complete your card and send in to Village Church. Your gift is important. For questions, contact Molly at 913-671-2325 or molly.sirridge@villagepres.org.

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.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Village on Mission in the Sanctuary

8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Carols and a Word for Presbyville
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

Village on Mission Preschool Enrollment

The time is almost here for Village Church Weekday Preschool enrollment. Enrollment begins Tuesday, 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, please contact Preschool Director Sarah McKee at sarah.mckee@villagepres.org or 913-671-2338.



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.



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, 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: Carols and a Word for Presbyville 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 Serridge, 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.