



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 18, 2016 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Mary sings because God's Angel calls her by name. God fashioned 300 sextillion stars, but still God finds her. That is why Mary sings. But she immediately understands what the significance of this love means. God not only knows Mary. God loves Mary and God calls everyone by name.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
arr. Jon Schmidt; Jenny Hull, cello (8 a.m.)

I Wonder as I Wander
music: John Jacob Niles; Rachel Priest, soprano (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

Every day, and especially this day, love is what brings us together:

God's love, for each of us and for all of us.

Love is patient, love is kind;
love bears all things and believes all things.

Love is expansive and inclusive;
love seeks us and saves us.

Love is why the angels sing, the star shines, and the shepherds travel.

Love is why the kings tremble, the animals bow down, and the baby cries.

Christmas comes because love has always been here.

Let us worship the God of such miraculous love!

Children's Anthem

Arise, Shine, Jesus Has Come!

by Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo; Morning Stars (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Diann Markley and Laura Edgington (8 a.m.)

Kate and Reed Beebe, Paige and Grant (9:30 a.m.)

Elizabeth and Denis Jimenez, Alexander, Maxwell and Jaxson (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. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
When it comes to love,
 you have never held back from us.
We confess that we sometimes find this embarrassing;
 for we have been taught to ration our resources,
 save for a rainy day,
 and certainly never wear our hearts on our sleeves,
 where they could be wounded.
And yet that has never been your way.
You have turned heaven and earth upside down
 to show us what limitless love looks like.
Take away our fears, O God, that we might be willing to do the same. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

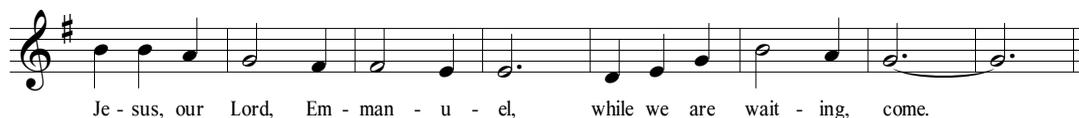
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer



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

Mary Did You Know
arr. Jack Schrader; Ken, Bria and Jilli Foley (8 a.m.)

Christmas Peace Canon
arr. Jean Anne Shafferman; Morning Stars (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Prayer for Illumination

Diann Markley (8 a.m.)
Bill Hare (9:30 a.m.)
Charles Schultz (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-56 (pg. 932)

Sermon

A God Who Knows Their Name

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 145

What Child Is This
GREENSLEEVES

Offertory

Come Darkness, Come Light
by Mary Chapin Carpenter; Elisa Bickers, vocal and piano; Jenny Hull, cello (8 a.m.)

Ave Maria
by Franz Biebl; arr. Jeremy Yager; Village Brass (9:30, 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. 136

Go, Tell it On the Mountain
GO TELL IT

*Benediction

*Response

**O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Postlude

Toccata on "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
Kevin J. Sadowski (8 a.m.)

Hodie, Christus Natus Est
by Jan Sweelinck; arr. Walter H. Barnes; Village Brass (9:30, 11 a.m.)

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 19, 2016)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Tom Are, Jr. 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. 19

John 3:16-21

God loves the world. There is no end to the love of God for God's creation. The whole of the gospel begins there. There is a mystery to Christmas. The mystery is not just how was this child born, but why? The response to this greater mystery is God's holy love for you and for the world.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Isaiah 11:1-9

The scriptures are filled with holy dreams of God's future, none more beautiful than this passage from Isaiah. In a vision of life completely restored, Isaiah affirms that in the end God is still God. With the birth of the Prince of Peace, such holy imaginings inspire God's people anew. Read this passage again. How might these words influence your day today?

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Luke 1:26-38

Let it be with me according to your word. We should not overlook Mary's faithful response. God works through God's faithful children. Each day is a renewed opportunity to say, "Let it be with me according to your word."

Thursday, Dec. 22

Luke 1:39-56

Mary sings a song of a new world. She knows that her child will bring a new order, a new life to the world. Read it carefully and recognize that Jesus comes to bring justice and peace to the earth. Like Mary, we also sing the deepest promises and dreams of our faith. . .from *Joy to the World* to *Silent Night* to *O, Come all Ye Faithful*, we sing our confidence that Christ redeems the world.

Friday, Dec. 23

Luke 2:1-20

The child is born. There is so much joy in heaven that it spills over into a shepherd's field, and they learn of God's undying love for the world. These words have been spoken to every generation for centuries, but they are also words that speak God's truth for you: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Saturday, Dec. 24

Philippians 2:5-11

For centuries Christians have read this passage at Christmas time because it speaks of how Christ emptied himself for us. From the glories of heaven he descends to take the form of a simple person that we might know what it means to be human, and that we might know, someday, what it means to live in glory. In time, every tongue will confess. Today, let this good news be on your tongue.

SERMON NOTES

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.

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.

JOY OFFERING TODAY - 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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

DIAPERS IN DECEMBER - Children & Family Ministry will be collecting diapers for the Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the crib by the Children's Library or at either Food Pantry table.

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 Church School - Parents may check in their elementary (K-5) aged students on the 3rd floor. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CLUB V6 (6TH GRADE) - Fun and relevant discussions for today's 'tweens. Room 302. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

There will be no church school for preschool through 6th grade on Sunday, Dec. 25. Nursery and toddler care will also be closed.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

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

The spring 2017 Village U curriculum is a wide umbrella encompassing all our adult learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults—young and older—to grow in knowledge and faith together. We hope you will spend some time discovering all that is available.

- 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.**

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Wednesday Night Dinner Christmas break: Dec. 21, 28 and Jan. 4.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Because produce donations are down in the winter months, the Food Pantry is requesting donations of canned fruit the rest of December - peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, pineapple, etc. The Clothes Closet is in need of SHOES - adult and children, all sizes. Check the back of your closet for some that you are no longer wearing. Heavy winter coats are also in demand. Thank you.

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 with any questions.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

BETTER COMMUNICATION IN 2017 – Better communication skills can improve your relationship with your partner. Dr. Dave Ehman will facilitate a new session of Couple's Communication starting on Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 6-8 p.m. in Room 232. Dinner is provided through this four-week series and childcare is available. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org by Tuesday, Dec. 27 if you're interested. Registration is limited to 10 couples; the class fee per couple is \$50.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF BEGINS ON JAN. 11 - If you are grieving, consider coming to Growing Through Grief, a five-week class where you can 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 for more information or to register.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MISSION SEWING will return on Jan. 3. Fabric and yarn donations welcome. All cotton and blends, large pieces, one yard or more, no fancy fabrics. We have fabric and patterns available for at-home projects. If you would like to join us, come to the sewing room from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. any Tuesday. Come and go as you want. Lunch is from noon-1 p.m., bring a sack lunch or purchase at the Village Cup. Call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 for more information.

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!

YOUNG ADULTS! - Need a place to go for Christmas? If you don't have family around and aren't able to travel this year, let me know! There are others like you, who would like to spend the holiday with good people. Email hallie.hottle@villagepres.org to find out where to go!

YOUTH MINISTRY

STUDY HALL TONIGHT – Join us this evening from 4:30-7:30 p.m. We will be holding a study hall for all high school students. We will provide snacks and a nice atmosphere to cram for those finals! 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!

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – We will not have Sunday School Classes due to our Winter Program Break. We will return after the break on Jan. 8.

CHEER – No Cheer this evening, but we will be meeting from 4:40-7:30 p.m. for our annual Study Hall! Cheer will return after the break on Jan. 8.

GPS – No GPS this coming Wednesday due to Winter Break! GPS will resume on Jan. 11.

TWOSDAYS – Twosdays is also on break and will return Jan. 10.

NEXT SERMON SERIES

Starting Sunday, Jan. 1

I Know That's What it Says, But That's Not What it Means!

The Bible is a complicated book, written over hundreds of years in various contexts and diverse circumstances. And then, it is read over 2,000 years later in a world and culture the biblical writers could not have imagined. Given all of that, it's easy to misunderstand the Bible. When it is misunderstood the good news can often sound like bad news for some folks. When it is misunderstood, it can often make the Bible more difficult to trust. In this sermon series, we will take just a few passages that have often been confusing and see if there is a life-giving word for us.

Your ornament is waiting for you!

For those who have not received the ceramic Christmas ornament, we still have a limited quantity available. You may stop by the reception desk at the South entrance to pick one up today or you can schedule a pick-up by calling Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325. The custom ornament has a picture of the newly renovated chancel and pipe organ.

Thank you for all you do to support Village Church!



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT



UPCOMING VILLAGE CHURCH ADVENT ACTIVITIES

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
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.