



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

The Village Presbyterian Church • 6641 Mission Road • Prairie Village, KS 66208
913-262-4200 • villagepres.org

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
by Gilbert Martin

Call to Worship

Dr. Rodger Nishioka

And the Word became flesh. It is a Word like no other word:

It is a Word of grace, a Word of hope and life.

It is a Word that speaks the very heart of God.

This Word full of grace and truth became flesh.

This Word like no other word, which became flesh like all flesh,
and dwelt among us,

and dwells among us.

*Hymn, No. 132 (v. 1,3)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Kay and Ken Patterson (8 a.m.)
Jee-Yeun Kim and Rosalinde Rivera (9:30 a.m.)
Kate, Will, Nell and Edie Breyspraak (11 a.m.)

*Sung Response

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

*Unison Prayer of Praise

**Most gracious God,
Surely the angels are singing,
for Christ is born.
He is born of woman, as is every child,
yet, born of your power as was no other child.
Surely the angels are still singing,
for the light shines in the darkness,
joy is proclaimed to all people,
and there is good news for all your children.
Surely the angels are singing,
for the glory of heaven has pushed into time,
and the redemption of the whole creation can be seen.**

**Your redemption can be seen in a child who breathed in flesh
that we might breathe your Spirit.
In the name of the incarnate one we pray. Amen.**

*Response

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

Words of Welcome

Hymn, No. 119 (v. 1)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PROMISE

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn, No. 138 (v. 1)

Who Would Think that What Was Needed
WHITE ROSETTES

THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn, No. 114

Dr. Elisa Bickers
Away in a Manger
CRADLE SONG

Christmas Prayer 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**

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-20

Hymn, No. 113 (v. 2)

Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn, No. 151 (v. 1,5)

We Three Kings
KINGS OF ORIENT

Christmas Story

Where Did the Christmas Spirit Go?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offertory

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod; soloist: Connor Locke, soprano

*Sung 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

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

*Postlude

Adeste Fideles!
by Daphnia Portier

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns



Connor Locke, soprano, is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Vocal Performance, studying under Dr. Kerry Jennings and minoring in German at DePauw University. She is a Kansas City native and former voice student of Village Church's own Matthew Shepard. She recently performed as "Inga" in *Young Frankenstein* and won first place in the college sophomore women's category at NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing). Upcoming plans include performing the role of "Cherubino" in *The Marriage of Figaro* this spring, and studying abroad in Vienna next year.

TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

JOY OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING TODAY – 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.

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.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

VILLAGE U SPRING 2018 – Village Church offers over 60 courses through the Village U program. The Spring 2018 catalog will be available Jan. 2. New classes in the spring include: A Study of Art with the Nelson-Atkins Museum, A Study of the Doctrine of the Trinity, How One Dies Well, Sustaining Your Spirit in Troubling Times, Early Christianity and the Beginnings of the Church, and Jewish Triune Theology. For more information, contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES RESUME JAN. 7, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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:

CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE for children ages 0-3 in Rooms 111 and 114.

PRESCHOOL AND KIDS' KINGDOM SUNDAY SCHOOL do not have class today and Dec. 31.

MORNING STARS CHILDREN'S CHOIRS do not have rehearsals today and Dec. 31.

VILLAGE 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. Contact Preschool Director Sarah McKee at sarah.mckee@villagepres.org or 913-671-2338 for more information.

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.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Wednesday Night Dinners will resume on Jan. 10.

CHURCH BOWLING EVENT – Join us for a bowling event for our Village Church Family from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at Ward Parkway Lanes, 1523 W. 89 St. (89th & State Line). We have lanes specifically reserved for Village Church at a special rate of \$5 per person (includes shoes!) for two hours of play. RSVP to Liz Middleton at liz.middleton@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2359.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Many thanks for all the beautiful Christmas decorations donated by you and very much appreciated by the clients of the Clothes Closet. Bibles and inspirational books and warm coats are still being requested. The Food Pantry is continuing to ask for canned fruit, a favorite of the clients. The Food Pantry, Clothes Closet and their clients wish you all a Merry Christmas.

PRAYERS FOR VPC'S GLOBAL MISSION – DRMP: Between now and March, the DRMP has four medical and educational trips heading to La Romana. While there, teams will assist our partner organizations with medical, surgical and educational support. **HAITI:** Village members Maria Kindred, Layne Stowers, Dr. Darryl Wallace and Dr. Ted Higgins head to Fonds-Parisien, Haiti in January for a surgical trip at Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope. **PCUSA BORDER MINISTRY/FRONTERA DE CRISTO:** Contact Lora if you are interested in learning more about Village's growing relationship with Frontera de Cristo and participating on a Village delegation. Contact Lora Garrison, director of international mission, at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390 for more information.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF – If you lost a loved one, consider coming to the next Growing Through Grief, held from 4:30–5:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Jan. 10–Feb. 7, in Room 124. Registration is required; to find out more or to register, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW LUNCHEON – Women of Wisdom (WOW) invites all women to kick off the new year with lunch and warm fellowship at Café Provence at noon Wednesday, Jan. 10. Located in the PV Shopping Center at 3936 W. 69th Terr., this charming restaurant serves authentic French cuisine in a cozy setting with a quiet ambiance. RSVP to Diane Lee, 913-432-4321, or dianelee@att.net by Monday, Jan. 8.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THEOLOGY THURSDAYS – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday nights, beginning Jan. 18. We'll get together with pizza to talk about big things and practice being community together. For January-February, we'll be reading and talking about who we believe God to be with the help of Rob Bell's book, *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*. Let's start our year in the best way, together!

PROFESS/CONFESS – It's often easier to define ourselves by the things we aren't about, than the things we are. So what do we believe? This is a "2.0" young adult class for those who want to go deeper. Bi-weekly meetings on Sunday evenings, after The Gathering. Read more and register online by Jan. 18.

YOUTH MINISTRY

PROGRAMS RETURN ON JAN. 7 – All of our regular programs are on a short break due to the Holidays! Weekly programs will start back on Sunday, Jan. 7, with Sunday School (9:30 a.m.) and SNL (high school youth group, 6:30-8:30 p.m.), Twosdays (middle school after-school program, Tuesdays 4-5:30 p.m.), and GPS (middle school youth group, Wednesdays 6:30-8:00p.m.). Check the youth website at villagepresyouth.org for more information.

ABOUT VILLAGE CHURCH

Village Presbyterian Church is 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.

We are a Presbyterian (USA) family of faith that is inclusive, generous and welcoming of all people. Village Presbyterian Church is now one church worshipping at two campuses: Village on Mission (6641 Mission Road in Prairie Village) and Village on Antioch (14895 Antioch Road in Overland Park).

REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES:

Village on Mission - 6641 Mission Road in Prairie Village

Traditional Worship - 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays

The Gathering - 5 p.m. Sundays with music led by indie folk musicians Becky and Nathan Bliss

Learn more about Village Church at villagepres.org

Village on Antioch - 14895 Antioch Road in Overland Park

Traditional Worship - 9:30 a.m. Sundays

Tonight's Christmas Eve Worship Services

Village on Mission

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

7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

New Years Eve Worship Services

Village on Mission in the Sanctuary

8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
No 5 p.m. Gathering Service

Village on Antioch

9:30 a.m.

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

Hope continues through generous commitments...

979 pledges received totaling \$3,798,015.

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.

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS JAN. 21

How Do You Know?

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" It's an important question, but there is another question to answer first. How do you know the truth is genuinely true? How do you know that there are 300 sextillion stars in the universe or that you are made of atoms? How do you know that Columbus "discovered" America? How do you know that Jesus is Lord? How do you know that Muhammad is not? There is likely disagreement on any of these truth claims. In this series, we will consider not simply what it means to talk about the content of truth, but how we know the truth to be true?

Jan. 21	Truth is Personal
Jan. 28	Truth and Knowledge are Not the Same, but They Are Friends
Feb. 4	I am Blind but Think I See
Feb. 11	Thank God For What You Don't Know

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

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.