



CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2016 • 10 a.m.

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

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

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

It is a Word of grace. It is a Word of 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 became flesh like all flesh
and dwelt among us.

And dwells among us.

The Word came down to be with us

and to lift us up that we may be with God.

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

*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!

Time with Children

Hymn, No. 119 (st. 1)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

THE PROMISE

Luke 1:26-38
Hymn, No. 110 (st. 1)

Love Has Come
BRING A TORCH

THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7
Hymn, No. 114 (st. 1,3)

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. 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
POLISH CAROL

THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12
Hymn, No. 145 (st. 3)

What Child is This
GREENSLEEVES

The Christmas Story from Presbyville
Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

*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. 147 (st. 1,4,5,6)

The First Nowell
THE FIRST NOWELL

*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

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

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of December 26, 2016)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Len Carrell 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. 26

Acts 4:20 – Hymn 110, *Love Has Come*

In this verse from Acts, the Apostles proclaim boldly "we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard." This hymn focuses not only on the activity of love, but a love that is seen and heard as "God now asleep in the hay." Love indeed has come and "never will leave us." How have you seen and heard the light that shines in the darkness this Christmas?

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Isaiah 9:6 – Hymn 120, *When Shepherds Lately Knelt*

This week we have come to the place where shepherds knelt, because we find "room and welcome" for all of God's children. The promises of Isaiah find us there as well, whose hopes are fulfilled in Christ. Love is born as a sweet, frail baby. Love is born and burns its way into our hearts even in our "half-belief," "unasked, unforced, unearned." In the intimacy of the manger and the cross we are reminded we are not alone. Where did you feel the burning touch of God's love this season?

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Luke 2:6-20 – Hymn 128, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Luke's gospel takes a long look at the birth of Christ. This hymn is a montage of that miraculous night. Oxen lowing, angels singing, flocks sleeping, voices rejoicing. The text dates back to a Polish carol of the 13th-14th century. The fact that God chooses to come to us as an infant clothed in flesh is a tidings of great joy. Where do you find yourself in the montage?

Thursday, Dec. 29

Isaiah 11 – Hymn 129, *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*

This hymn imagines a shoot that springs from the seemingly dead stump of Jesse's lineage as a beautiful and fragrant rose. This text from Isaiah is the forerunner pointing to the coming of Christ. Indeed, Jesus came from the stump of Jesse, David's father, whose royal dynasty had lay dormant for 600 years. A dead, withered stump, plundered from its trunk, branches and fruit and out of it raises a new growth of hope. Hope out of despair, light in the darkness, "enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

Friday, Dec. 30

Luke 2:22-39 – Hymn 148, *Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple*

This story is one of my favorites because it talks of two of God's devoted people longing for a new hope in their worship. Perhaps this song would have been better titled *Anna and Simeon Meet Their Long Awaited Messiah*. Their prayers have been answered; their eyes have seen salvation, their joy has been made complete, as a baby cradled in their arms. What if we could hold with care the God who holds us?

Saturday, Dec. 31

Psalms 98 – Hymn 134, *Joy to the World*

Issac Watts may not have intended for his lyrics to be used only on this day of Christmas, but for every day to be Christmas Day. The psalter is calling us to make a joyful noise, and this song does just that by asking "every heart" to make room for such joy. There was no room in the inn for the Christ child, but the joy that comes from his birth is making room for us. So repeat the sound of joy, repeat the sound of joy, forever.

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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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

There will be no church school for preschool through 6th grade today. Nursery and toddler care are also closed.

VILLAGE PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT - Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year at Village church Weekday Preschool begins in January! Current preschool families and Village Church members may enroll Jan. 17-20. Enrollment opens to community families on Jan. 23. Forms are available on villagepres.org. For more information, please contact Terri Gaeddert at 913-671-2338.

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 community members: Registration begins on Tuesday, Jan. 17.**

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER – Wednesday Night Dinners will resume on Jan. 11.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – The Food Pantry/Clothes Closet is now closed and will open again, after the holidays on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The building will be closed all this week so that our volunteers may spend time with their families. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

COUPLE'S COMMUNICATION STARTS JAN. 3 – Dr. Dave Ehman will facilitate a new session of this 4-week class beginning Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 6-8 p.m. in Room 232. Registration is due by Dec. 27; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information.

STEPHEN MINISTERS PROVIDE CARING SUPPORT - If Christmas and the holidays are especially difficult this year, please consider receiving support from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential care to individuals who need help navigating some of life's harder moments. Contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-23467 or len.carrell@villagepres.org.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

WINTER PROGRAM BREAK – All of our regular programs are on a short break due to the Holidays! Weekly programs will start back with Sunday School and Cheer on Jan. 8. Check the website at www.villagepresyouth.org for more information.

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



Second Thursday Recital Jan. 12

Featured Artist: Soprano Jee-Yeun Kim

She wowed us with her spectacular solo in *O Holy Night* in Tidings of Joy on Dec. 18. Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, in Village Chapel for a 30-minute recital with Village Church soprano intern Jee-Yeun Kim. The program will include works by Samuel Barber, Francis Poulenc, Vincenzo Bellini and Giuseppe Verdi.

Jee-Yeun Kim is a graduate student (D.M.A) in vocal and opera at University of Kansas. Jee-Yeun began her vocal studies at age nine as a member of the Seoul Metropolitan Junior Chorus in her native Korea. She sang with them for 10 years before continuing her studies at the College of Vocal Music at Yonsei University in Korea. During that time, she also pursued voice study in the Summer Master Class program of the Hochschule Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Following her graduation she began teaching in high school, while also working as a church choir director. After moving to the United States of America, Jee-Yeun started to study again in voice and choral conducting at Pittsburg State University. She was a first place winner in the West Central Region of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 2012 and a first place winner in the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition.

She made her Carnegie Hall debut in the winner's recital for the Barry Alexander International Vocal competition on January 27, 2013. At Pittsburg State University, Jee-Yeun received the Outstanding Student award at the PSU Honors Convocation in Spring 2013 and 2015. She received an "Excellence in Scholarship" award at the Graduate Banquets in Spring 2013, 2014 and 2015. She performed with South East Kansas Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the Concerto Aria competition held in the spring of 2013. Jee-Yeun has had several roles in KU opera productions.

NEW SERMON SERIES

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 context and diverse circumstances. And then, it is read 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.

- Jan. 1 The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
- Jan. 8 "Women Keep Silent?" This Doesn't Sound Like Good News
- Jan. 15 Family Matters and the Cost of Following Jesus
- Jan. 22 "Divorce" – Why the Church has Read This Text to the Wrong People
- Jan. 29 "You Must be Born Again!"
- Feb. 5 "Jesus is the Only Way to Salvation." This is Not About You. This is About God.
- Feb. 12 "Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect." Intimidated yet?
- Feb. 19 The Only Safe Place for Hatred
- Feb. 26 Pray Without Ceasing

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.