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## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 31, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

What began as a question about difficulty became an opportunity for healing. And then the story keeps going: concerns, disbelief, conviction and sight. The journey of the man born blind is full of decisions and difficulty, but what might have been more transforming for him: receiving sight, or what happens afterward? As one year ends and another begins, how is the year behind us shaping what we see in the year ahead?

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*  
J. S. Bach; Chris Leaver, organist

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Sing a new song to the Lord.

**Proclaim the Lord of salvation day by day.**

Seek the God who comforts and keeps promises.

**Come and find rest. Come and find hope.**

Look with eager joy for the presence of the Lord in your life.

**Open our eyes, ears and hearts, O Lord, to see, hear and respond to your call.**

Come, let us worship the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

**Let us worship the God of hope in all we were, all we are and all we will be.**

\*Hymn, No. 146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*  
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

\*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**

**We open our hearts to you on this day and offer you the truth of our lives.**

**We know we have been subject to the things of this world:**

**fear that stifles us,**

**prejudice that blinds us,**

**doubt that plagues us.**

**We have thought too highly of ourselves**

**and not cared enough for others.**

**We have thought too little of ourselves**

**and allowed ourselves to be written off as worthless.**

**Forgive us.**

**Help us move into those places where love is needed,  
that we might see as you see,  
hope as you hope,  
forgive as you forgive.**

**Our desire is to live and move in concert with your will.** (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

John 9:1-23 (pg. 976)

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.**

\*Hymn, No. 140

*Once in Royal David's City*  
IRBY

Scripture Reading

John 9:24-41 (pg. 977)

Sermon

*To See or Not to See?*

Rev. Zach Walker

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn, No. 451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*  
OPEN MY EYES

Offertory

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*  
Samuel Kingsley

\*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. 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*  
DIX

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

\*Postlude

*From Heaven Above To Earth I Come*  
Michael Bedford

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

SERMON NOTES

## THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of January 1, 2018)

The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Len Carrell 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, Jan. 1**

### **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, Jan. 2**

### **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, Jan. 3**

### **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, Jan. 4**

### **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 fruits 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, Jan. 5**

### **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, Jan. 6**

### **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.



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](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes)

All-Church Winter

**BOWLING**

*Event* Ward Parkway Lanes

2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28

Contact Cindy at [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org)



## TODAY AT VILLAGE

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

**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. Contact [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org) for information.

**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 is now available throughout the church. 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](mailto:marianne.weber@villagepres.org).

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

**FAITH JOURNEY** – This class is studying Dr. Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity-Rediscovering a Life of Faith." Borg explores what he calls two paradigms for looking at our faith and how those can work together. Taught by Kathy Ray, Room 230.

**FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH** – This class is studying the significance of Jerusalem, the holiest city for the three Abrahamic faiths of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Taught by the Rev. Dwight Tawney, the class enjoys thoughtful discussions and conversation prompted by this beloved teacher who served as one of the pastors here at Village Church. Room 132.

**VILLAGE FORUM** – The class will explore the life and works of Reinhold Niebuhr on Jan. 7 and 14. Niebuhr was considered a public theologian, a major voice of the 20th century, influencing thought politically and socially, as well as religiously. Dr. John Borden will host a film and discussion of this most colorful figure of the last century. Room 126.

**GROWING TOGETHER** – This class continues their reading and study of the Acts of the Apostles. Taught by Lawrence Andre, the group is reading through the entire book of Acts over this year. The study is geared for persons in their 30s and 40s. Room 124.

## 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.

**MORNING STARS CHILDREN'S CHOIRS** do not have rehearsals today.

**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](http://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](mailto:sarah.mckee@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2338 for more information.

# CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER** – Wednesday Night Dinners resume Jan. 10.

## MISSION

**THE FOOD PANTRY** – Tomorrow starts a new year, and the Food Pantry hopes that among your 2018 New Year's resolutions there is one resolving to make a weekly food donation to the Pantry with your visit to the church. The Pantry is requesting canned spinach, beets and pork and beans — favorites with the clients. The Clothes Closet is asking for small kitchen items: can openers, pots and pans, kitchen towels, etc. Happy New Year!

**VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES** – Friday, Jan. 12, Village will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. We need two to three people from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and six to seven volunteers to serve and clean up from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations. They can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11. If you can help, contact Jim Bolton at 913-262-7618 or jcb3832@gmail.com.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP** – Between now and March, the DRMP of Village Church has four medical and educational trips heading to La Romana. While there, team members will assist our partner organizations with medical, surgical and educational support. To all of the teams and everyone they encounter, please send prayers of love, faith and healing. If you are interested in learning more about our mission trips to the Dominican Republic, contact Lora Garrison, director of international mission, at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390.

**HAITI** – Village members Maria Kindred, Layne Stowers, Dr. Darryl Wallace and Dr. Ted Higgins head to Fonds-Parisien, Haiti in early January for a surgical mission trip. Every three months, Ted takes a team of medical and non-medical participants (ages 16+) to Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope to provide surgical care and to train Haitian doctors and nurses. Contact Lora Garrison, director of international mission, at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390 for more information.

**BORDER MINISTRY / FRONTERA DE CRISTO** – If you are interested in learning more about Village's growing relationship with Frontera de Cristo/PCUSA Border Ministry and possibly participating on a Village delegation trip, visit [villagepres.org/border](http://villagepres.org/border) or contact Lora Garrison, director of international mission, at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL** – Please join us to hear pianist Dr. Robert Weirich at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, in the Village on Mission Chapel. Weirich, professor of piano at the UMKC Conservatory of Music, will play a program of encores.

**LOOKING FOR MUSICIANS** – Have you thought about joining one of Village's many choirs or bell ensembles in the new year? We'd love to have you, and there is always a place for you! Contact any of our music staff to learn more about how to get involved at <http://www.villagepres.org/music-staff.html>.

## PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DELIVERED POINSETTIAS!** – We are profoundly grateful to 93 members who delivered 250 poinsettias throughout the greater Kansas City area. A special thank you to Ruthie Kline who headed up this tradition. You brought warmth and cheer to so many.

**FAITH AND GRIEF IS JAN. 9** – Due to the New Year holiday, the monthly Faith and Grief lunch will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 9. If you have lost a loved one, please join us in Friendship Hall at noon. A box lunch is provided. Reservations are helpful; register online at [faithandgrief.org](http://faithandgrief.org) or call 469-251-9612. For more information contact Linda Alley at [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2327.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**MISSION SEWING** will resume its regular Tuesday schedule on Jan. 2. New sewers as well as non-sewers are welcome, particularly during the afternoon hours from 1-3 p.m. We are open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. You may come and go as your time allows. Lunch is at noon; bring your own or take advantage of the Village Cup. For more information, call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515.

**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](mailto:dianelee@att.net) by Monday, Jan. 8.

**WOMEN WITH SPIRIT** – Book and brunch with a twist! Join us on Friday, Jan. 19, in the small Dining Room from 9:30-11:30 a.m. to laugh, chat, chew, share and read! Wrap one of your favorite books (new or used) to swap for another's good read. And, in the spirit of giving, please consider bringing a gently used or new book for a sweet child at Operation Breakthrough. To reserve your spot, email [shelbykrumm@yahoo.com](mailto:shelbykrumm@yahoo.com) no later than Wednesday, Jan. 10. Need child care? Email Pam at [pam.southerland@villagepres.org](mailto:pam.southerland@villagepres.org) no later than Jan. 12.

## 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 and 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 are 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.), GPS (middle school youth group, Wednesdays 6:30-8 p.m.), and Early Table (high school morning devotional, Thursdays 7:30-8:15 a.m.). Check the youth website ([villagepresyouth.org](http://villagepresyouth.org)) for more information.

## Annual Congregational Meeting/Dinner

This year an annual meeting will take place at the Mission campus and the Antioch campus. You are welcome to attend the meeting at either location. Rev. Tom Are will provide a review of 2017 and plans for 2018. The Session will present the budget for 2018.

**MISSION LOCATION** – The Annual Meeting follows dinner in Friendship Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Seating is limited. If you plan to attend, please advise Marsha Hansen no later than Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 913-671-2341 or [marsha.hansen@villagepres.org](mailto:marsha.hansen@villagepres.org).

**ANTIOCH LOCATION** – The Annual Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, preceded by a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please advise the Antioch location at 913-681-8180 or online at [villageantioch.org/events](http://villageantioch.org/events) no later than Monday, Jan. 29.

## Winter Weather Advisory

If the weather forecast is to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission will be cancelled.



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

The Commitment Committee thanks each and every one of you who has continued your support of our mission through your annual giving. Your amazing contributions toward the 2018 campaign has inspired all of us. It is so remarkable to see proof of your hope for our future through your generous pledges.

### Hope continues through generous commitments...

1,047 pledges received totaling \$3,961,215.

These generous supporters increased their giving by 14 percent.

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](mailto:molly.sirridge@villagepres.org).

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

- Jan. 7          Preaching Through the Bible  
Jan. 14        Commissioning Stephen Ministers

## 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

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## 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

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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 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.*