



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)

Service of Worship

Jan. 12, 2025 • 9 and 11 a.m.



"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." (Luke 2:21)

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Introit

Puer Natus in Bethlehem, BuxWV 217
by Dieterich Buxtehude

*Call to Worship (Psalm 8)

Rev. Melanie Hardison

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

You made your glory higher than heaven!

Out of the mouths of nursing babies you have laid a strong foundation because of your foes, in order to stop vengeful enemies.

You made your glory higher than heaven!

When we look up at your skies, at what your fingers have made—the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place—

you made your glory higher than heaven!

What are we human beings that you even think about us; what are we that you even pay attention to us?

You made your glory higher than heaven!

You have made human beings only slightly less than divine, crowning us with glory and grandeur.

You made your glory higher than heaven!

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

You made your glory higher than heaven!

*Hymn

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple

Mary and Joseph came to the temple, brought the boy Jesus, offered him there. People were waiting wanting to greet him; long had they sought him, solace for care.

Anna had prayed there, widowed, long waiting, worshiping God by day and by night.

Now she is praising, filled with elation: here is God's promise, Christ is her light.

Simeon sings now: God proffers blessing, brilliantly gilding dawn of his day.

Light in the darkness, never extinguished, Light of all nations, light up our way.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, just as Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple, so we bring our children to you.

We come seeking peace and health and safety for children everywhere.

We come as parents and caregivers, grandparents and foster parents, step-parents and aunts and uncles, teachers and neighbors.

We ask that children in our community and around the whole world be given the opportunities to thrive and grow.

Yet we know that many children do not have what they need.

Forgive us, mother God, for our neglectful ways.

Forgive us, father God, for our complacency.

Help us to live so that one day every child will grow in peace and wholeness.
(silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the Earth.

Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev-ery heart.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Gary Anderson (9 a.m.), Terri Piazza (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Luke 2:21-40 (pg. 933)

Sermon

Growing in Wisdom and Years: Jesus the Baby

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 104

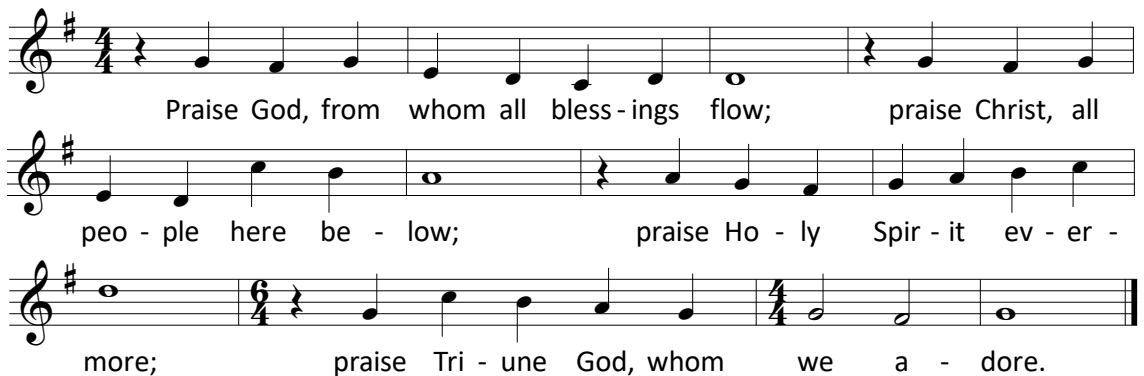
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Call for the Offering

Offertory

"Nunc dimittis" from *Evening Service* in C minor
by George Dyson; Village Choir

*Response



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all
peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

*Prayer of Dedication

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF DEACONS & ELDERS

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Constitutional Questions for Officers

Constitutional Questions for the Congregation

Do we the members of Village Church, accept these leaders as elders and

deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Ordination 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.

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT

*Hymn No. 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.

Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.

O, shine all around us by day and by night.

Jesus, the light of the world.

*Postlude

Prelude for Organ
by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

**All who are able may stand*

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

"Puer natus in Bethlehem" is a medieval Latin Christmas hymn. Like so many other carols of that era, the text describes the typical narrative of the birth of Christ (mangers, Magi, etc) but then also defines what this humble origin would mean for mankind: "He comes, a maiden mother's Son, Yet earthly father hath He none; And, from the serpent's poison free, He owned our blood and pedigree. Our feeble flesh and His the same, Our sinless kinsman He became. That we, from deadly thrall set free, Like Him, and so like God, should be."

Today's Musicians: Drs. Elisa Bickers and Josh Maize

Music for today's service is presented with permission from onelicense.net (#A-705103) and CCS PERFORMmusic (PML8498).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Take Action: Letters to Legislators – Join Village for Gun Sense today in Friendship Hall after all worship services to write state legislators asking for secure gun storage legislation. If you cannot attend, download the sample letter and write on your own time: villagepres.org/news/take-action. It's time to implement this practical law to protect children from senseless gun violence.

Village for Gun Sense Series – Beginning Jan. 13, Village for Gun Sense will host a series of four classes: "Beyond Thoughts and Prayers: Conversations on Gun Safety". In our first session, we'll hear from Moms Demand Action representatives. Join us from 10-11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13, in Room 307, Mission Campus. Child care available. Register at villagepres.org/village-u.

Celebrate Unity at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 in our Mission Campus Sanctuary during Prairie Village's 4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Action & Celebration Event: "I Have a Dream: The Beloved Community". This inspirational event aims to unite individuals from all walks of life to reflect, connect and commit to fostering love and unity in our community.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Child Care is available on the first floor during services. Bring infants through 23 months to Room 114 and kids ages 2 and 3 to Room 109.

Lighthouse – Pre-K and 4-year-olds meet in Room 106 (sign in outside Room 106). **Grades K-6** – Drop off in Room 307 for All-Sing (group worship) at 9 a.m. (sign

in outside Room 307). Pick-up for kids grades K-6 will be on the third floor.

Preschool Enrollment – Enrollment for 2025-2026 begins at the Mission Campus for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old students on Jan. 21. Find program details and application at villagepres.org/preschool/mission. Contact preschool director Sarah McKee (sarah.mckee@villagepres.org) for more info or to schedule a tour.

ENGAGEMENT

2nd Sunday Social – Join us **today** in the Welcome Center after the service for a sweet treat & conversation!

Wednesday Family Dinners – 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Friendship Hall. \$5/child, \$10/adult, volunteers eat free. Email engagement@villagepres.org to volunteer. Purchase online by noon on Tuesday at bit.ly/Wednightdinner.

Connect Groups starting in Feb. – If you are interested in joining a new small group to explore the "Parables of Jesus" video lessons created by our own Pastor Rodger, contact engagement@villagepres.org.

MISSION MINISTRY

Blood Drive – Donate from 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, in Room 132, Mission Campus. Donors will receive a Chiefs T-shirt! Sign up at bit.ly/vpc-blood-drive and enter the zip code 66208 and Jan. 21. Walk-ins are also welcome!

MUSIC MINISTRY

KC Percussive Art Ensemble presents Edgard Varèse's "Ionisation" – 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, in the Mission Campus Sanctuary.

This is a percussion concert led by Village staff member Theo Musick. Free admission.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Chamber Winds – 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

If You or a Loved One is Hospitalized, Let Us Know – Please call or have a family member or the hospital chaplain call the church at 913-262-4200 any time of day. Share the name of the hospital, the room number, and other pertinent information. A pastor will visit, listen, and offer comfort and prayers.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Coffee Talk – Calling ALL women! Are you looking for connection, interested in finding a small group, a Bible study or just love coffee? Mark your calendars for Feb. 1 and April 5, 8:30-10 a.m. in the Young Adult Space to meet other women and learn more about opportunities at Village.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night – All 20s and 30s are invited each Wednesday as we gather, play games, study Scripture and celebrate one another. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall; at 6:30 p.m. we'll move to the Young Adult space for programming. Join us!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Programs are back! – Join us in the Youth Loft for any of our weekly events: Sunday Brunch (all youth, 9-10 a.m.), SNL (high school youth group, Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.), Lofternoons (middle school afterschool program, Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.), and GPS (middle school youth group, Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.).

Epiphany Star Words are paper stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. 2025 Star Words will be available as you leave worship today. Simply draw a star out of the basket held by one of the ushers and journey with your word through the year, noticing where it shows up and how it brings you closer to God. Baskets of Star Words will also be available in the Narthex on Jan. 19 and Jan. 26.

The Session of Village Church has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, Jan. 26, for the purposes of electing Elizabeth Zakaryan as ruling elder to fulfill an unexpired term on Session class of 2026 and Gene & Sally Downard and Judy Manka as deacons for the class of 2027. The meetings will take place at the close of all worship services.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Growing in Wisdom and Years: Jan. 12-26

In the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we have many stories about the public ministry of Jesus. We know of his teaching and preaching and miracles. We know of his last supper, washing his disciples' feet, and his arrest, torture and crucifixion. We know of his resurrection from the dead and his encounters with his disciples and his ascension. But we know precious little about his life as a child and young person. In these Sundays following Christmas, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore three stories about Jesus the baby, the boy, and the adolescent.

Jan. 12	Jesus the Baby
Jan. 19	Jesus the Boy
Jan. 26	Jesus the Adolescent

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior pastor • Dr. Elisa Bickers, co-director of music ministry & principal organist
Laura Ann Bowen, interim senior director of business operations
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor for pastoral care
Rev. Chad Herring, interim senior associate pastor • Dr. Joshua Maize, co-director of music ministry
Rev. Anna Owens, Antioch Campus site pastor • Angel Patterson, interim director of youth ministry
Rev. Maggie Johnson Phillips, pastor for young adult ministry & worship arts
Robert Rumold, director of information technology • Carol Solenberger, director of engagement
Bob Sperry, director of giving & endowment • Sandra Stephens, director of child care
Rev. Zach Walker, pastor for mission • Rev. Alice Whitson, pastor for communications
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, founding pastor, 1947-1994

Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher to bring you one.

Streaming video of Sunday services is available at villagepres.org/online.

You may call in to listen to a week-delayed broadcast of our Sanctuary service on our worship service phone line: 913-203-1301. You can opt-in to be called automatically at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.

Printed on paper from sustainably managed forests.