

# Service of Worship

March 16, 2025 • 9 and 11 a.m.



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



"Jesus Rejected in His Hometown"

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## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Introit

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*  
setting by Janet Linker

\*Call to Worship (Psalm 9)

Rev. Chad Herring

Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts;  
let us tell of all God's wonderful deeds.

**We will be glad and exult in God;  
we will sing praises to God's name, the Most High.**

God has rebuked the nations; God has destroyed the wicked.

**The Lord judges the world with righteousness;  
God judges the people with equity.**

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

**All those who know God, put their trust in God,  
for God does not forsake those who seek God.**

\*Hymn No. 487

*These Treasured Children*

Prayer of Confession

**God of righteousness and justice,  
you embrace and bless each child with your grace.  
You call us to do what is right for them and for all.  
You delight in justice for all creation.  
You ask us to care for the orphan, the widow, the stranger, and the poor.  
Yet we confess that we do not always do what is right and just.  
We hesitate to speak up and are too afraid to act.  
Forgive us, God.  
Grant us the wisdom and the courage to do justice, love kindness,  
and walk humbly with you. (silent prayer)**



## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Ruling Elder Ann Flanders (9 a.m.)

Scripture

Luke 4:16-30 (pg. 936)

Sermon

*Jesus in His Hometown, Nazareth*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn No. 756

*O God of Every Nation*

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Christus Paradox*  
arr. Alfred Fedak; Village Choir and Dr. Josh Maize, conductor

\*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

## GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT

\*Hymn No. 772 (st. 1-3)

*Live into Hope*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace!**

\*Postlude

*Allegro in b minor*  
by Johann Gottfried Walther

*\*All who are able may stand*

**The Flowers in the Chancel Today** were given in loving memory of Carolyn Holtman by Steve Holtman and family.

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

About this morning's choral offertory: Our hymnal companion states that "it calls attention to the many ways that various attributes and images of Christ seem at least to be in tension and sometimes actually to contradict each other... The poignant recurring expression of this paradoxical mystery is the penultimate line of every stanza: 'You, the everlasting instant.' Time, like every other measure, proves inadequate for dealing with the intersection of human history and divine eternity, yet we affirm that they have been perfectly joined in Jesus Christ. In all the places where we have been willing to compartmentalize and separate our understandings in order to minimize our sense of inadequacy in dealing with these matters, the author calls us back to the risking faith of living with paradox."

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

**Annual Congregational Meeting** – The Village Church Session has called for the annual congregational meeting to be held Sunday, March 23, immediately after the 11 a.m. worship service. All are invited to share a lunch in Friendship Hall to reflect on our ministry in 2024, hear a report about the 2025 budget, and our plans for the upcoming year.

**Lenten Prayer Walks** – As we walk with Jesus through Lent, join Village pastors for five Lenten Prayer Walks around the Kansas City area in the days leading up to Easter. Come to any you are able to attend—don't forget to stop by the wall installation in the Mission Campus Welcome Center to add your "footprint" to the walks you've attended. **This Week: Lenten Prayer Walk at Jerusalem Farm** – 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 22. We will meet at 520 Garfield Ave. to walk through the neighborhood, then, head to Cliff Drive to see goats at work. We'll engage in conversation about environment/creation as well as Jerusalem Farm's wider work in the community. Warm drinks and snacks provided.

**About Lent & Holy Week** – Subscribe to receive Lenten Video Devotionals, see upcoming Lenten Prayer Walks, and find all Holy Week Worship details, including livestream availability and child care, at [villagepres.org/lent](https://villagepres.org/lent).

**Giving** – You may give to Village Church at [villagepres.org/giving](https://villagepres.org/giving) or scan the QR code to the right. Set up an automatic, recurring gift by contacting Bob Sperry at [bob.sperry@villagepres.org](mailto:bob.sperry@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2325.



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**"Believe: Why Everyone Should Be Religious" Book Discussion** – 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, Rooms 126/127. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will be leading a discussion about NY Times columnist Ross Douthat's book, which claims being religious is an essential part of human existence. Participants are encouraged to have read the book.

**Chuck Gillam Lecture on Earthkeeping** – 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 29, Friendship Hall, Mission Campus. "A Call to Arms: Protecting Children from Chemicals Causing Disease," keynoted by investigative journalist and author Carey Gillam, daughter of Chuck Gillam. Panel discussion after the lecture with Dr. Richard Randolph, Dr. Brooke Sweeney & Craig Volland.

## 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.

**Today is Family Worship Sunday** – No Elementary Lighthouse today. Kids are invited to worship with us in "big church."

**Village Preschool at Mission Campus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – We hope you will help us celebrate 50 years of Village Preschool from 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 4 (in conjunction with Art and Hors d'oeuvres). Visit the preschool hallway to view 50 years of history and mingle with old friends!

## ENGAGEMENT

**Art & Hors d'oeuvres** – 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 4. Join us for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual free family friendly community event to enjoy displays from artists of all ages, food, and fun! We'll also be celebrating 50 years of the Mission Campus Preschool.

**Wednesday Family Dinners** – 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Friendship Hall. \$5/child (3-6y), \$10/adult (7y+); \$40 max per family. Email [engagement@villagepres.org](mailto:engagement@villagepres.org) to volunteer. Purchase online by noon on Tuesday at [bit.ly/Wednightdinner](http://bit.ly/Wednightdinner).

**New Member Luncheon** – Interested in joining Village Church? You're invited to join us from noon-1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 6 in the Heritage Dining Room (230). Email [engagement@villagepres.org](mailto:engagement@villagepres.org) to RSVP and for more information.

## MISSION MINISTRY

**Be the Church Night, April 6** – This spring we once again have the opportunity to serve others at the Mission Campus. Join us at 5 p.m. for pizza in Friendship Hall, followed by various service opportunities from 5:30-6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. This is a great way to serve during Lent!

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**KC Wind Symphony presents "The Muse in Music"** – 3 p.m. **today** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

**Robert August, organ** – 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17, Mission Campus Sanctuary. This lecture recital on Dutch organ music is presented by the American Guild of Organists. Free admission.

**Luther College Nordic Choir with Village Choir** – 7 p.m. Saturday, March 22, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Purchase tickets at [tickets.luther.edu](https://tickets.luther.edu) or at the door.

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

**Easter Lily donations accepted through April 2** – Your \$15 donation is a way to honor your loved one and provide an Easter lily for a homebound member. Visit [villagepres.org/easter-lilies](https://villagepres.org/easter-lilies) to donate online or send the printed name(s) with a check for \$15 per person to Karen Reimer, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208. Honorees' names will appear in the Palm Sunday bulletin.

**200 Easter lilies want to go home. Can you help them?** – On April 12, we could use your help delivering Easter lilies to our homebound members. It's easy: decide the number of lilies you can deliver, the zip code area you'd like, then deliver any time during Holy Week (April 13-20). To volunteer, email [pastoral-care@villagepres.org](mailto:pastoral-care@villagepres.org) or call 913-671-2327.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**KC Mothers in Charge 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pee Wee's Walk** – 9 a.m. Saturday, April 5. The purpose of this walk is to remember the lives lost due to violence and raise awareness about community resources. KC Mothers in Charge was the Extra Mile Giving recipient for the 2024 PW Advent Celebration event. For more info and to register, visit [kcmothersincharge.org](https://kcmothersincharge.org).

**Celebration of Faithful Women** – Tuesday, April 8 in Friendship Hall. 5:30 p.m. reception; 6 p.m. program. Register for

free at [bit.ly/preswomen](https://bit.ly/preswomen). In-person registration will be available between services on March 30 in the Welcome Center and Friendship Hall. Childcare is available, but registration is required.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night** – All 20s and 30s are invited to join us every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. We'll enjoy dinner in Friendship Hall, followed by time together in the Young Adult Room (Room 8) for games, Scripture and connection. Come as often as you can - we'd love to have you!

**Picnic in the Park** – 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25. Young adult parents and their kiddos are invited to meet us for food and fun at Mohawk Park (67<sup>th</sup> & Lamar). No cost, but sign up at [bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults](https://bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults) to let us know you're coming! Save our future picnic dates: April 22 and May 13.

**Service Day at Jerusalem Farm** – Noon-5 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 520 Garfield Ave, Kansas City, MO. Join us for an afternoon serving our neighbors at Jerusalem Farm, Village's 2024/2025 Signature Mission. Come prepared to work outside!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Program Break, March 16-23** – Weekly programs will return on March 26. Youth Ministry leaders and students are on our annual spring break service trip to the Dominican Republic. To see our weekly programs, visit [villagepresyouth.org](https://villagepresyouth.org).

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

### Walking with Jesus: Lenten Sermon Series

Theologians describe Jesus' ministry as "peripatetic" because he moved from place to place. He did not just settle in Nazareth and tell everyone to come to him. He walked around and visited with people and talked with them and ate with them. In the five Sundays leading up to Palm Sunday, we will travel with Jesus from his temptation in the wilderness to meeting fishermen on the beach to eating with a tax collector in Jericho. Along the way, we will grow in our faith and faithfulness just as the disciples did as they walked with Jesus.

March 9	Jesus in the Wilderness
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Jesus in His Hometown, Nazareth</b>
March 23	Jesus on the Beach Beside the Sea of Galilee
March 30	Jesus in a Foreign Land

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## MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

## MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior pastor • Dr. Elisa Bickers, co-director of music ministry & principal organist  
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor for pastoral care  
Rev. Chad Herring, interim senior associate pastor • Kathy Lueckert, senior director of business operations  
Dr. Joshua Maize, co-director of music ministry • Alan Olson, director of facilities  
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

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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](http://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.*