



**VILLAGE  
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

## Service of Worship

April 27, 2025 • 9 and 11 a.m.

### About Today's Service

Over the Lenten season we spent several weeks “walking with Jesus.” It's time for a well-deserved rest, so let's take some time to sit with Jesus. Where and how can we sit with Jesus in these days? In the process, we just might learn a bit about who we are called to be.



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Zach Walker

Introit

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*  
arr. D. Linda McKechnie; Village Ringers (9 a.m.)

*Serenade*  
by Franz Joseph Haydn; arr. Frances Callahan;  
Morning Bells and Helen Hofmeister, conductor (11 a.m.)

\*Call to Worship

Rev. Melanie Hardison

Come with what you have, all those who approach with gladness.

**Your melody will find harmony in this place.**

Come with what you have, all those who grieve this day.

**You are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.**

Come with what you have,

all those who are weighed down with "shoulds" and "what ifs."

**You can lay down your burdens, guilt, and shame in this place.**

Come with what you have, all those who come seeking.

**All questions are safe in the presence of God.**

\*Hymn 246 (st. 1-4)

*Christ Is Alive!*

Prayer of Confession

**Enduring and giving God,**

**you are always ready to meet us where we are,**

**revealing time and again the depth of your love for us.**

**Yet, we fail to treat each other with the love you show us.**

**We ignore our own failings.**

**We act as though we are at the center of creation.**

**Forgive us.**

**Help us face our own shortcomings and give us the maturity to grow.**

**Give us patience with, and love for, those we don't understand.**

**Help us see the Holy Spirit in one another.**

**We want to draw close to your light.** (silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

\*Response to Assurance



\*Passing the Peace of Christ

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with Children

Anthem

*The Lord is My Shepherd*  
by Howard Goodall; Village Choir;  
Donna Martin, soloist; Dr. Josh Maize, conductor

Prayer for Illumination

Gordon Wells (9 a.m.); Sharon Marsh (11 a.m.)

Scripture

John 3:1-21 (pg. 968)

Sermon

*Sitting with Jesus*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn 692

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

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.**

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

*Capriccio*  
by Michael Helman; Village Ringers (9 a.m.)

*I Come with Joy*  
arr. Brian Childers; Morning Bells (11 a.m.)

\*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 546

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

\*Postlude

Fantasia on "Christus, onze Heer, verrees"  
by Gerrit Stulp

*\*All who are able may stand*

## **ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC**

Believe it or not, today's anthem serves as the title music for the British comedy series "The Vicar of Dibley." The composer was excited to create a serious and beautiful setting of Psalm 23 to complement the quirky humor of the TV show, which is centered around hijinks in a small country village as they welcome (or don't) their first female vicar.

## WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

Whether this is your first time at Village, or you come so often you call it "home," we are blessed that you are with us today. No matter where you are in your faith journey or life stage, no matter what questions or burdens you carry, Village takes seriously the call to be welcoming; we are glad you are here. Every Sunday we gather to read the old story, sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world in which we live this minute through sermons and prayer. By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ's life, we discover hope and even joy.

If you are new to us, I invite you to meet one of our pastors at the top of the ramp in the corner of the Welcome Center. We would love to know more about you and to share more about Village Church. Soon, you might also be calling this place "home."



Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka  
Senior Pastor

**Important note about The Gathering** – Due to the exciting Friendship Hall renovation project, the 4 p.m. Gathering modern worship service will move to the Sanctuary temporarily until the work is complete. We look forward to worshipping in a new improved Friendship Hall in the new year!

**Next Week is Earth Day Sunday** – Village will observe Earth Day Sunday on May 4. We will hear from guest preacher and Village "alum" Rev. Owen Gray at all services. The 4 p.m. Gathering service will be held outdoors in the south parking lot; if you are planning to attend, bring a lawn chair! In case of inclement weather, service will not be held. Seedlings provided by KC Farm School will be available to take home at the end of every service. We hope to see you there to celebrate God's Green Earth!

**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

**Village U: Christian/Jewish Relations Through the Centuries** – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, April 28-May 19, Heritage Dining Room (230). Biagio Mazza explores the historical conflict between Jews and Christians, starting with the first century split over Jesus as Messiah. Register at [villagepres.org/village-u](http://villagepres.org/village-u).

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** – 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 29, Heritage Dining Room (230). Rev. Alice Whitson will present on "Unexpected Opportunities for Ministry." Please join us for food and fellowship! \$7 donation.

**Worship and lunch at Grandview Park Presbyterian Church** – 11 a.m. Sunday, May 4. Thank you to all who attended the Social Justice Ministry community dinner! Let's continue building relationships with our immigrant neighbors. Sign up at [villagepres.churchcenter.com/registrations](http://villagepres.churchcenter.com/registrations).

## 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 on third floor).

## ENGAGEMENT

**Village Golf** – 8 a.m. Monday, May 12 at Minor Park (11215 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, MO). Green fee with cart is \$42. RSVP to [bradsteil@everestkc.net](mailto:bradsteil@everestkc.net) by May 2.

**40s & 50s Social Event** – If you are in your 40s or 50s you are invited to O'Neill's (9417 Mission Rd.) from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, May 17. We want to share some new opportunities for this age group as well as hear your thoughts. Event is free; no RSVP needed. Questions: [zach.walker@villagepres.org](mailto:zach.walker@villagepres.org).

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social** – 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 27. More details to come!

## MISSION MINISTRY

**Cross-Lines Volunteer Opportunity** – Join us on Friday, May 9 to serve lunch to our neighbors in need at the Cross-Lines Kitchen. Sign up at [bit.ly/cross-lines-2025](http://bit.ly/cross-lines-2025) or email Jim Bolton: [jcb3823@gmail.com](mailto:jcb3823@gmail.com).

**Want to Support the Thwake Trip?** – Funds are needed to help cover the cost of our free 3-day medical clinic during our service trip to Thwake, Kenya in June. Approx. 1,500 people with little or no access to medical care will be served. To donate visit [villagepres.org/thwake](http://villagepres.org/thwake).

**Food Pantry & Clothes Closet** – Thank you for the recent donations for the Clothes Closet! Volunteers are quickly working through them to make everything available to our neighbors in need. Please, no fall and winter clothes at this time. We also have enough water bottles and egg cartons, so if you are saving them to donate, please recycle them!

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Bachathon** – 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Presented by the American Guild of Organists, featuring the Village Chamber Choir and KC Baroque Consortium. Free admission.

**KC Wind Symphony presents "Movie Magic"** – 7 p.m. Sunday, May 4, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Recital: St. Petersburg String Quartet** – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, May 8, Mission Campus Chapel. Join us for a noontime recital with a short reception afterward in the Welcome Center to meet the artist. Free admission.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Ladies' Night at The Kemper Museum** – 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 4420 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Enjoy a beverage and appetizers made by James Beard Award-winning Chef Ted Habiger followed by a docent-led tour. The cost is \$35. RSVP to Becky Anderson at [becky.anderson418@gmail.com](mailto:becky.anderson418@gmail.com) by May 1.

**Operation Breakthrough** needs year-round volunteers to tutor students in literacy and mathematics (one hr/week). Email [charlottesdavison@gmail.com](mailto:charlottesdavison@gmail.com) with questions and to volunteer.

### **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 the Young Adult Room, followed by games, Scripture and connection.

**Y.A.M. Camp** – Saturday, May 10. All young adults (and your children, if you've got them) are invited to join us for our spring retreat at Heartland Retreat Center in Parkville, MO. The schedule includes devotions, a nature walk, games and more. For information and to sign up go to [bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults](http://bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults).

**Party in the Park** – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, Franklin Park (8706 Roe Ave.). All young adults—individuals, couples, parents (and their kids)—are invited for a picnic to celebrate a year of growth and fellowship in Young Adult Ministry! No cost, but sign up at [bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults](http://bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults) to let us know you're coming.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Graduating Seniors lead worship tonight** – Joins us for the 4 p.m. Gathering service tonight in the Sanctuary as our graduating seniors lead us in worship. It is always a great service and they love your support and encouragement!

**Weekly Programs** – 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 after-school program, Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.), and GPS (middle school youth group, Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.).

**Confirmation Sunday** – We will celebrate this year's Confirmation class during the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, May 19. We will welcome them as the newest members of Village, and pray for them as their faith journeys continue.

## UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

**April 27**  
May 4

**Sitting with Jesus - Rev. Zach Walker**  
Rev. Owen Gray, guest preacher

### **Holy Spirit: The Liberator (May 11-June 1)**

The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Trinity, along with God, our father and mother, and Jesus, the son. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit was present at creation, descended upon Jesus at his baptism, called the church into being at Pentecost, and is present among us now. Yet many of us find it challenging to understand who the Holy Spirit is and how the Spirit relates to our lives. Leonardo Boff, a Brazilian liberation theologian, called the Holy Spirit the “liberator” who frees us from the oppressions of sin and gifts us freedom. In this sermon series leading up to Pentecost, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore four ways the Holy Spirit liberates and frees us.

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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  
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.*

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

Village Presbyterian Church • 6641 Mission Rd. Prairie Village, KS 66208 • 913-262-4200 • [villagepres.org](http://villagepres.org)