



**VILLAGE CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)



**stephen**  
**MINISTRY®**



## **Service of Worship**

Sept. 14, 2025 • 9 and 11 a.m.

## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Introit

*God Is Here*

by Glenn Wonacott; Village Choir, Dr. Josh Maize, conductor

\*Call to Worship (Psalm 148)

Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

**Praise God, all of you who are God's messengers!****Praise God, all of you who comprise God's heavenly forces!**

Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!

**Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!**

Do the same you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar!

**Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person,  
you princes and every single ruler on earth!**Do the same, you young men and young women—  
you who are old together with you who are young!**Let all of these praise the Lord's name because only God's name is high over all.  
Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven. Praise the Lord!**\*Hymn 689 (1 all; 2 high voices; 3 low voices; 4 all) *When the Morning Stars Together*

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,****we gather with the whole of creation to praise you. We sing with the saints in  
heaven of your glory. We offer up our songs of adoration.****Yet we confess that our singing ends quickly in the face of challenges. We confess  
that we stop our praises, not wanting to offend others. We confess that we do not  
speak up in the face of injustice and unrighteousness.****Forgive us, O God.****Help us to participate in the coming of your kingdom, even in part. Help us to do  
justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.****Help us to praise you all our days. (silent prayer)**

## Assurance of God's Grace

### \*Response to Assurance

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature of 2/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!'.

Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en;  
glad of heart your car - ols raise; ran - somed,  
healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, should  
sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call for Illumination (Hymn 450, st. 2)

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

Prayer for Illumination

Elena Green (9 a.m.); Elizabeth McKell (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Acts 6:1-7 (pg. 996)

Sermon

*The Church is Participatory*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn 727 (soloists sing st. 3 and 4)

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Zach Walker

**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

*Work*

by Melissa Dunphy; Miren Gabiola, Elisa Bickers,  
Kailynn Byrne, Jared Brooks, Josh Maize, Riley Pembleton

\*Response

For the fruit of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev-ery na-tion, thanks be to God.

For the plow-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,

fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT

\*Hymn 733

*We All Are One in Mission*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response



\*Postlude

*Praeludium in g minor, BWV 535*  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

\*All who are able may stand

### ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

"Work is love made visible." Based on poetry that blends Christianity and Sufism (Islamic mysticism), the text of today's offertory music, "Work", is adapted from a chapter of *The Prophet* by Lebanese-American author Kahlil Gibran. It addresses a path out of despair and meaninglessness through working with love—a message that has as much relevance to today's world as that of a century ago.

**Child care** is available on the first floor during both services. Bring infants through 23 months to Room 114 and kids ages 2-4 to Room 109. **Lighthouse (9 a.m.)** – Pre-K and 4-year-olds meet in Room 106 (sign in outside 106). K-6 Grade meet in Room 307 for All-Sing (group worship) at 9 a.m. (sign in outside 307). Lighthouse pickup is on the third floor. Parents, please keep your cell phones on!

**The Gathering** – Join us for a modern, imaginative style of worship at Village Church offered at 4 p.m. Sundays in the Sanctuary (while Friendship Hall is being renovated). Child care is available.

**Giving** – True joy in giving isn't about the size of the gift, but the love behind it. When we give, we reflect God's generous heart and share God's grace, provision, and love. Even the smallest act, offered with sincerity, can bless others, inspire kindness, and shine God's light in the world. You may give to Village Church at [villagepres.org/giving](http://villagepres.org/giving) or scan the QR code to the right.



If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers in the chancel, please contact Karen Reimer at [karen.reimer@villagepres.org](mailto:karen.reimer@villagepres.org).

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Village U Class: Conversation with Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka** – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, Rooms 132/133. Members, non-members, visitors, believers, skeptics—all are welcome to an evening Q&A session with our senior pastor. Bring your reflections, thoughts, and questions. No registration necessary.

**Village U Class: The Culture Wars that Helped Create America** – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 8, Room 124. In this course, Dr. Lonnie H. Lee will examine the religious, cultural, and political differences in 17<sup>th</sup> century post-reformation Europe. Register at [villagepres.org/village-u](http://villagepres.org/village-u).

**Village U** has kicked off the fall semester! Use this link to sign-up for those classes that require registration: [villagepres.churchcenter/registrations](http://villagepres.churchcenter/registrations). Select "Village U" in the drop-down menu. Please note that only classes requiring registrations will be listed on the registration page. See our catalog for additional opportunities that do not require registration.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

**Child & Family Development Center 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** – 5-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 9900 Mission Rd. Join us for music with Dino O'Dell, cake, Kona Ice, inflatables, and more. Kids will also get to interact with a real garbage truck!

## ENGAGEMENT

**Wednesday Family Dinners** – 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Welcome Center. Join us for dinner without the prep and clean up. Adults \$10 (ages 12+), children \$5 (ages

5-11), age 4 and younger eat free; \$40 family max. Purchase online by noon Tuesdays at [bit.ly/WednightDinner-2025](http://bit.ly/WednightDinner-2025). Volunteers eat free; email [carol.solenberger@villagepres.org](mailto:carol.solenberger@villagepres.org) to volunteer.

**Food Truck Festival** – 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5. Join us in the south lot for a variety of options for dinner, including 451 Pizza, Tiki Taco, Meltbox Ice Cream, and more. Bring your own chair and invite your friends and neighbors! After the festival, stay for the free Kansas City Wind Symphony concert at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Village Connect Small Groups** provide Bible study opportunities that deepen your faith and relationships with others. This year's study created by Pastor Rodger: "Jesus' Beatitudes: Blessings for Our Life Today." Interested in joining a group or want to learn more? Stop by the Welcome Center between services on Sept. 21. Questions: [carol.solenberger@villagepres.org](mailto:carol.solenberger@villagepres.org).

## MISSION MINISTRY

**Auction/raffle item donations needed** for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church's annual fundraiser, Celebration Dominicana (Oct. 11). Examples include gift cards, vacation rentals, airline vouchers, sports/concert tickets, services like gardening/interior design, artwork, jewelry. To donate, contact: [lora.garrison@villagepres.org](mailto:lora.garrison@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2390. To learn more about the fundraiser, go to [villagepres.org/cd-2025](http://villagepres.org/cd-2025).

**September is Peanut Butter Month at the Food Pantry** – In addition to protein, did you know peanut butter is a source of healthy fats and fiber? If you prefer that we do the shopping, a \$25 donation will

purchase a case. In the Clothes Closet, we can always use household linens like sheets, towels, and pillowcases.

**Flu Shot Clinic** – 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, Rooms 132/133. Flu shots are free with a medical insurance card and an ID. You can get the flu vaccine or the Covid booster, or both! The 65+ flu vaccine is also available. Signups can be found at [bit.ly/flu-2025](http://bit.ly/flu-2025); walk-ins are also welcome.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

**Te Deum concert** – 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, Sanctuary. Sergei Rachmaninoff's "All-Night Vigil" will be presented in English translation, honoring the work's profound spiritual and musical legacy. This performance celebrates one of the choral repertoire's most revered compositions. Tickets at [te-deum.org](http://te-deum.org).

### PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

**Would you like to be a Stephen Minister?** If you have a compassionate, caring heart, you can share those gifts with others by becoming a Stephen Minister. Both men and women are needed for this ministry. Stephen Ministers will be in the Welcome Center after services today and are happy to talk with you.

**Growing Through Grief** – 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 24-Oct. 22, Room 132. Grief is a hard journey; we are here to help you every step of the way. Rev. Tim Soule facilitates this 5-week class where you will receive support and comfort. Register at [villagepres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3097171](http://villagepres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3097171).

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Sunshine & Stroll** – 1:30-3 p.m. **today**, Mohawk Park (67<sup>th</sup> & Lamar). Join us to soak up some sunshine, take a stroll around the park, or sit and chat with other women. Kiddos are welcome.

**MOTS (Moms of Teens)** – 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, Young Adult Room (8). Interested in talking to other moms of teens? Join us for coffee and conversation.

**Mingle & Bingo** – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, O'Neill's Restaurant. Women of all ages are invited for a night of fun and games with featured speaker Rev. Maggie. \$15/person (includes appetizers). Bingo cards \$5/each; proceeds benefit Village Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. RSVP to [becky.anderson418@gmail.com](mailto:becky.anderson418@gmail.com).

### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night** – 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, Young Adult Room (8). All 20s and 30s are invited to join us weekly for dinner, games, Scripture, and connection. Come as often as you can—we'd love to have you!

**Royals Game** – 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19. Bring your friends and join us at Kauffman Stadium for a night of fun, fellowship, and baseball! Tickets \$20. Register at [bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults](http://bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults).

**Picnic in the Park** – 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22. Young adults with kiddos: bring the whole family to Taliaferro Park for an evening of playgrounds, popsicles, and dinner. No cost, but sign up at [bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults](http://bit.ly/VillageYoungAdults).

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

### Sept. 7-28: The EPIC Church

In his book "Postmodern Pilgrims," Dr. Leonard Sweet offers a vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century church that engages both the church's traditions and its need for innovation. He calls for a faith that is both ancient and future, historical and contemporary. While he reminds us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), he wonders how the church, the body of Christ, can give a compelling and imaginative witness to Jesus today. In this sermon series, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore what Dr. Sweet calls the "EPIC" church: Experiential, Participatory, Imagistic, and Communal.

Sept. 7	The Church is Experiential
<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>The Church is Participatory</b>
Sept. 21	The Church is Imagistic
Sept. 28	The Church is Communal

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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 • Lora Garrison, director of international mission  
Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen, 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, 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](http://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)