



**the
Church
of the
Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage
office@churchofthevillage.org

January 21, 2024 • Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders**



***Not Set in Stone:
Hearts Softened by Grace***

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Leni-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Lenape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

We acknowledge the Leni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

GATHERING SONG & SHARING GOD’S PEACE

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Come, come, who - ev - er__ you_ are,__
wor-ship-per, wan-der-er,__ lov - er__ of leav - ing__
Ours is not a ca - ra - van__ of des - pair.
Though you have brok-en your vows__ a thou - sand times,
Come, come a - gain come!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah:
“Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”
Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH.
Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it.
Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey.
Jonah proclaimed,
“Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”
So the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.
God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior.
And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

* * * * *

I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short.
From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none.
Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for,
and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves
as though they owned nothing,
and those who have to deal with the world
should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—
for the world as we know it is passing away.

The Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Not Set in Stone: Hearts Softened by Grace
Pastor Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

Has there been a time in your life when you had to try the unexpected in order to move forward?
How / Did grace meet you in this experience?

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

There's a Wideness In God's Mercy



There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the
For the love of God is broa - der than the



wide - ness of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's
mea - sures of the mind, and the heart of the E -



jus - tice, which is more than li - ber - ty.
ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is wel - come and com - pas - sion and more
If our love were but more sim - ple, we should



gra - ces for the good. There is mer - cy with the
rest up - on God's Word, and our lives would be il -



Sa - vior, there is heal - ing in God's love.
lu - mined by the pow - er of God's love.

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

All: **Our hearts are lifted!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to God!

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Le-lo Le-lo Lai-lo (3x)

Lo-le Lo-le Lo-lai.

Holy, holy, holy,

God of loving pow'r.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.

Hosanna in the highest!

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

A TIME OF OFFERING

4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- The Vanco giving app, using the link on our website <https://www.churchofthevillage.org> or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.
- Setting up a direct bank transfer from your bank to COTV's bank
- Mailing a check to COTV's address: 201 West 13th St., NY, NY, 10011
- For those in the church building: Placing your gift in the offering basket in the sanctuary

For help with any of these, send an email to giving@churchofthevillage.org

OR call the church office: 212-243-5470



OFFERTORY

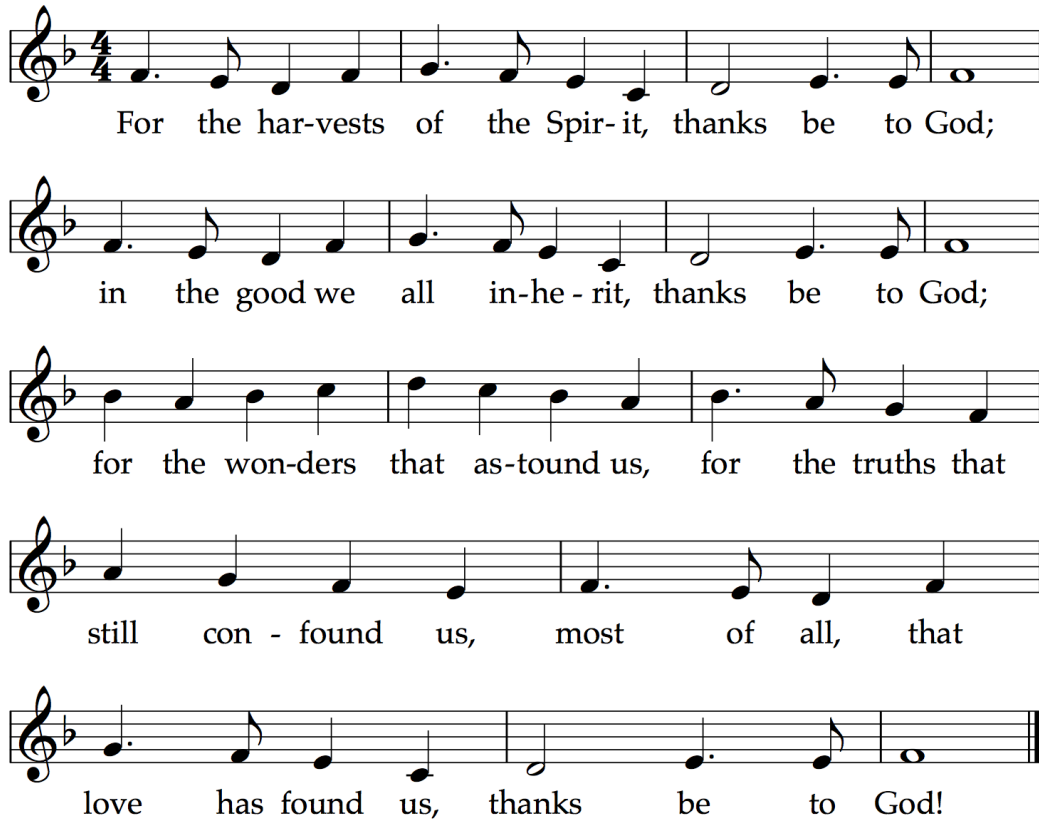
I Love the Lord

I love the Lord who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise I'll hasten to God's throne.

I love the Lord who heard my cry and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

For the Harvests of the Spirit



For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God;
in the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God;
for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that
still con-found us, most of all, that
love has found us, thanks be to God!

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

God Is Building a New Way

**God is building a new way, (3x)
sending love and grace our way;
God is building a new way.**

**We are building a new way, (3x)
growing wiser ev'ry day;
we are building a new way.**

**Holy cycles carry us, (3x)
bringing us into new life;
holy cycles carry us.**

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer

Lector/Reader: Dwight Campbell

Dance Ministry: Maura Burns

Call to Offering: John Kleinig

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Ministers of Care: Katie Braden (onsite) & Rhonda Wade (online)

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #1389840837, by Angelina Bambina, Used by permission

God Welcomes All

W & M: South African Worship Chorus

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

W: attr. Jalal ad-Din Rumi, 1207-1273, tr. unknown

M: Jorge Lockward

Music © 2019 Jorge Lockward.

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There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

W: Frederick W. Faber

M: BEACH SPRING, attr. to B. F. White

I Love the Lord

W: Isaac Watts

M: Richard Smallwood

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For the Fruits of All Creation

(3rd. stz. For the Harvests of the Spirit)

W: Fred Pratt Green

M: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh melody

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Building a New Way

W & M: Martha Sandefer

© 1986 Martha Sandefer

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

The Church of the Village is a progressive and radically inclusive community that is committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression. The foundation for all of our theology and practice is Jesus’ instruction to “love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.”

We seek to build a world overflowing with justice, mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our church building stands on ancestral lands of the Lenape people. The colonizers who stripped Indigenous peoples of their lands used Christianity to justify their actions. We are beneficiaries of a history of appropriation, slavery, and forced migration. We repent and commit to being a community that seeks to repair the harm done to Indigenous peoples and build new pathways to love and justice.

We celebrate human diversity – welcoming people of every color, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. We strongly support environmental justice and stewardship of the Earth. We believe many roads lead to God and are respectful of a diversity of spiritual paths. We believe our community flourishes with many points of view, opportunities for creative expression, and participatory worship.

To learn more about The Church of the Village, please complete our [Virtual Welcome Card](#).

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

Please follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage)), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our [YouTube channel](#) for videos of music, worship, Finding Center, and more.

You can also learn more on our website at churchofthevillage.org.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

January 21 – Sunday	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
January 23 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
January 24– Wednesday	6:30pm 6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom Choir Rehearsal
January 27 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
January 28 – Sunday	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Community, Commitment, and Courage

I give because I need to support the people and places that give me life.

I give because I gotta put my money where my mouth is...

I give because this community looks like God's Kin-dom in action to me.

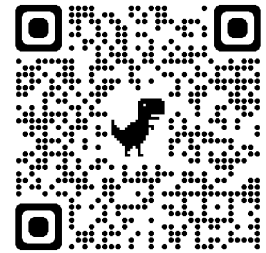
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

We, the Stewardship Team, are grateful for the many ways your commitment to our community expresses itself. In particular, we are grateful that you see financial giving as one of the ways in which you covenant with other members of this community and with the God whose love draws us together and outward to the world in which our lives are lived. As you give prayerful discernment to your gifting for 2024 – your expression of solidarity with fellow journeyers in faith – please consider the many individuals, initiatives, and hopes that reside in our congregation and give as generously as you are able.

You can express your commitment via: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>. Or, if you have questions, via: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org.

As we work together to foster, support and grow, we have tried to make it easy to give. Apart from our weekly collection basket for those on site, we offer the following:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT**
- **VANCO:** *Vanco's* simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want.
- **CHECK:** you can send a check payable to "The Church of the Village," and mail it to: Church of the Village
PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113



For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email giving@churchofthevillage.org. *Please note – emails to this address should be about how we can help you set up your giving process but should NOT include any specific information about pledge amounts, gift amounts, or any other confidential information from the individual sending the message.*

Thank you for being a part of the family of The Church of the Village and supporting the work and ministry of this community!



Jason Brubaker



John Kleinig



Jorge Lockward



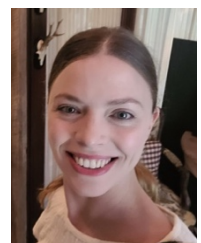
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



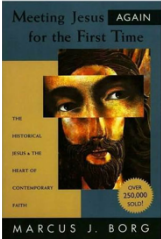
Sarah Witman



AGAIN AND AGAIN: The Cycle of Grace a new worship series

January 7 – February 11

The new year invites us to ponder new ways of being – and brings into focus the ways we may repeatedly strive to grow over the course of our lives. Sometimes we seem to take two steps forward and one step back which can feel discouraging. Instead of viewing it as a disappointment or failure, what if we saw our continued efforts at growth as part of a cycle of grace, where the Divine continually beckons us to new life. This holy cycle is in operation in all aspects of our life and in all of creation. Like children learning to walk and forests renewing themselves after a fire, God’s grace meets us, again and again.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Wednesdays beginning January 10th; 6:30pm

In this study, Marcus Borg addresses the yearnings of those who want a fully contemporary faith that welcomes rather than oppresses our critical intelligence and openness to the best of historical scholarship. Borg shows how a rigorous examination of historical findings can lead to a new faith in Christ, one that is critical and, at the same time, sustaining. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; **Meeting ID: 713 063 594 Passcode: 10011**



CLOTHING DRIVE

December- January

For the month of December and January, we will be collecting clothing donations for several organizations where Church of the Village members work or have ties. We are seeking: - Donations of *new* socks and underwear for men in all sizes - Donations of *new* winter clothing items for men, women, and children -

Donations of *new* winter coats for men, women, and children You can bring these donations to worship on Sundays through December and January. (If you have gently used and / or additional items in all sizes, we are happy to take those donations for our community closet on an ongoing basis as well.)

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Sundays, Noon to 1pm.



Community Closet is seeking donations!

Ready to let go of some of your gently used clothing and accessories? Make space in your closet by helping to stock our free, inclusive, and identity-affirming community closet. Contributions can be brought to COTV on Sundays or email Pastor Alexis to arrange a possible pick-up!

Spread the word! Church of the Village's Community Closet will be available every Sunday for 1 hour after service in the narthex. All are welcome to browse the racks and shop for free! If you know of someone who may be desiring a new style or a wardrobe change, please invite them to check us out! We have a variety of styles and sizes but are especially looking for donations of womenswear in sizes 10 and above as well as menswear in good condition. Interested in hosting the Community Closet after service one Sunday? Sign up here or e-mail Beccalove123@gmail.com for more info!

DANCE PRAYER

Every third Thursday of the month, 6:30pm-7:30pm



Join us in the sanctuary every third Thursday of the month for Dance Prayer! We will come together with an opening prayer and moment of reflection and then spend 45 minutes moving our bodies and dancing together to a diverse playlist. There will be no designated choreography and no final performance, just a joyful space to connect with your own rhythm while rejoicing in the gift of dance and community. Each gathering will then close with a moment of prayer and reflection before we part ways

HEALING CONVERSATIONS

(Every 4th Sunday of the month); 12:30pm

Healing Conversations is a place to share your feelings about the losses in your life in a safe, supportive, and friendly atmosphere. Your feelings of loss may be caused by events that are recent or in the distant past. You are invited to join our small group on site or online via Zoom (**Meeting ID: 838 5366 1938 Passcode: 690827**).



THE ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

1st Sundays after worship

The Alliance will meet the first Sunday of the month, starting October 1 after worship. Outings will include sharing meals together, exploring the city, museum visits, and more. Open to anyone who is young adult(ish), college age - mid-thirties. Bring a dish to share.

THE RED DOOR PLACE



Donations, in person, to the program can be made Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9am to 3pm. Ring the bell on the red door on 13th street or call the number posted at the door.

Food Pantry: Tuesdays; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Appointments are available via the [Plentiful App](#) (download from the play/app store). You can search for us, in the app, by name "The Red Door Place" or scroll through the list (towards the bottom) and our pantry will show. After registering on the app, you will receive a QR code - **BRING the QR code with you to your**

appointment. Arrive within 5 minutes of your scheduled appointment and present your QR code for scanning.

If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry. Note: Missed appointments can be rescheduled to a later open slot or the following Tuesday. If you have any questions call (347) 687-5321 or visit www.thereddoorplace.org.

Community Meal: We will continue to hand out bags of food on Saturdays beginning around 11:30am. Guests may arrive earlier to get a place in line; we have chalk marks on the sidewalk at 6-foot intervals to indicate where people should stand at a safe distance.

THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, ask your employer, your family, your friends to GIVE! Put out an appeal on your Facebook page. Email people you think would be able to donate.

TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE RED DOOR PLACE, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line.

Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Red Door Place empowerment ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God. If you would like to pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshiping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos.

SERMON ARCHIVE

If you missed worship or want to read the sermon again, we post many of our past Sunday sermon manuscripts and worship bulletins on our website at ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons. We encourage you to read and share them with others.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

Pastor Jeff Wells

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Pastor Alexis Lillie,

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