



**the  
Church  
of the  
Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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

**February 5, 2023 • Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Celebrating Black History Month / Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter  
No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever  
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



***We Are All Connected  
(and humans are not the center)***

## WE GATHER

*“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenne-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 Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.*

*We acknowledge the Lenne-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

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

God of the sparrow, God of the whale,  
God of the swirling stars.  
How do your creatures say Awe?  
How do your creatures say Praise?

God of the hungry, God of the sick,  
God of the prodigal.  
How do your creatures say Care?  
How do your creatures say Life?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm,  
God of the trumpet blast.  
How do your creatures cry Woe?  
How do your creatures cry Save?

God of the ages, God near at hand,  
God of the loving heart.  
How do your creatures say Joy?  
How do your creatures say Home?

## WELCOME

## WE PROCLAIM

## CALL TO LISTEN

*Your Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet*

**Your Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path //**

When I feel afraid, and think I’ve lost my way,  
still you’re there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

I will not forget your love for me and yet,  
my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus by my guide, and hold me to your side,  
and I will love you to the end.

## LESSONS

### *Genesis 1:24-31 (The Inclusive Bible)*

Then God said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul – cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: God made all kinds of wild animals, and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.” Humankind was created as God’s reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them.

God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth – and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!” God then told them, “Look! I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit carries its seed inside itself: they will be your food; and to all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air and things that crawl on the ground – everything that has a living soul in it – I give all the green plants for food.” So it was.

God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good – very good.  
Evening came, and morning followed – the sixth day.

### *Psalm 8 (The Inclusive Bible)*

YHWH, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the earth! You have placed your glory above the heavens! From the lips of infants and children you bring forth words of power and praise, to answer your adversaries and to silence the hostile and vengeful. When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place – what is humanity that you should be mindful of us? Who are we that you should care for us? You have made us barely less than God, and crowned us with glory and honor. You have made us responsible for the works of your hands, putting all things at our feet – all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and whatever swims the paths of the seas. YHWH, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

This is a Word of Abundant Life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

*We Are All Connected*  
*(and humans are not the center)*

Pastor Jeff Wells  
Lead Pastor, *Church of the Village*

## WE RESPOND

### A TIME OF SHARING

**How can we, individually, contribute to reimagining theology beyond our own species?**

**How can we, as a community, more consciously practice and share this “theology of ecology”?**

*Abundant Life*

**We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers growing,  
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.**

**With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That ev'ry creature find their place in God's love and salvation.**

**The bread we break the wine we pour, the very air we're breathing  
are gifts of rain, seed, earth, and sun – grace we are now receiving.**

**With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That ev'ry creature find their place in God's love and salvation.**

## **WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE**

In preparation for Communion, we encourage those online to prepare elements for participation,  
such as bread or cracker and juice or another beverage.

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!  
**Our hearts are lifted!**

Let us give thanks to God!  
**It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.**

*(call and echo)*

**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**

Friends, this is the bread of life, broken and given for you and for all.  
And this is the cup of salvation, poured out for you and for all.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Each prayer will end with a call to **SILENCE**.  
There will be no congregational verbal responses to today's prayers.

### **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](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)  
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

## OFFERTORY

### *We Are Living Earth*

We know it in the mountain reaching up to the sky.  
We know it in the ocean swimming with life.  
We know it in the forest rooted deep, growing high.  
We know it in the buzzing of the honeybee.  
But do we know it in the mystery of you and me?

*It's who we are long before we're given names  
Who we are dust and dirt in human frames  
Who we are just a spark in nature's flame  
We don't live on the earth, after all –  
we are living earth.*

We know it in the glowing of the burning trees.  
We know it in the crashing waves of the rising seas.  
We know it in the fading of a bird's melody.  
We know it in the bone dry ridge where the river used to be.  
But do we know it in the emptiness within you and me?

*It's who we are long before we're given names  
Who we are dust and dirt in human frames  
Who we are just a spark in nature's flame  
We don't live on the earth, after all –  
we are living earth.*

If we really knew who we belonged to,  
What are the loads we wouldn't have to hold onto?  
If we really knew who we belonged to,  
What would our hearts feel called to do?  
If we knew this truth we might just break through  
to a deeper belonging, as siblings in nature's womb.

*It's who we are long before we're given names  
Who we are dust and dirt in human frames  
Who we are just a spark in nature's flame  
We don't live on the earth, after all –  
we are living earth.*

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## BLESSING

## CLOSING SONG

*When You Wonder, When You Wander*

**When you wonder, when you wander,  
seeking anything, ev'rything,  
in the searching, in the longing,  
God is holding you still.**

**In your caution, in your questions,  
asking honestly, fervently,  
in your wrestling, in your straining,  
God is holding you still.**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

**In the desert, in the forest  
when the way is lost, the hope is dim  
In your troubles, in the the journey  
God is holding you still**

**In the mountains, in the valleys  
when the way is tough, your strength is gone,  
In the struggle, in the blessing  
God is holding you still**

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,  
you can go to the area by the stairs next to the lobby/narthex at the back of the sanctuary.  
If you are online, you can connect with a Minister of Care  
by typing **"CARE"** in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

## WORSHIP HOSTS

**Worship Design:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer, Rev. Jim Norton

**Worship Leader:** Alfida Figueroa

**Dance Ministry:** Elizabeth Levy

**Prayers of the People:** Jim Norton

**Call to Offering:** John Kleinig

**Altar Design:** Martha Chapman

**Visuals Design:** Katie Reimer

**Vocalists:** Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Jackie Stzendera, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

**Saxophone & Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ministers of Care:** Monica Quintero (on-site) and Jim Norton (online)

**Ushers:** Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

**Zoom Host:** Martha Chapman

**Zoom Chat:** Calvin Miller

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** *iStock Image #1340211155,*  
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### ***God of the Sparrow God of the Whale***

W: Jaroslav J. Vajda

© 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

M: Carl F. Schalk

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### ***Abundant Life***

W: Ruth Duck (alt)

stz. 2 by Jorge Lockward

(echoing Ruth Duck's original text)

M: Robert Lowry (attrib.)

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*Onelicense.net # A-725898*

### ***Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)***

Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

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### ***We Are Living Earth***

W & M: James Underberg

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### ***When You Wonder, When You Wander***

W: Stz. 1, Adam Tice; Additional stanzas Jorge Lockward

M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

Words © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 2017, Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

## 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](mailto: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](http://churchofthevillage.org).

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>February 5 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>February 7 – Tuesday</b>	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>February 8 – Wednesday</b>	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal
<b>February 11 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>February 12 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Exploring Faith

# 2023 Stewardship Campaign

*Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission*

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.  
Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.  
As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your  
generosity as we continue this adventure together.

Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>  
Questions: Email [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)

We all work together as members and supporters of our spiritual community to foster the ministries and mission of the Church of the Village. Here are ways you can offer your gifts:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT** from your bank account to COTV. This option includes no fees for the giver or the church. You can set this up directly through your bank for one-time gifts/payments or recurring gifts/payments to COTV. For assistance with this process, please contact [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org).
- **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](mailto: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!*

## EXPLORING FAITH

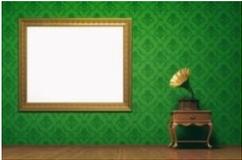
After worship, Sunday, February 12, 2023



Following worship on Sunday, Feb. 12, we will host a gathering that we call Exploring Faith. It's a time for relative newcomers to learn more about Church of the Village, hear from some of our leaders, and get to know one another better. It's also a first step toward membership if you're interested in further commitment to COTV. Please consider joining us via [Zoom](#). If you'd like more information, email me: [pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org).

## A WORK IN PROGRESS

A new worship series; Sundays, January 8 – February 19, 2023



Last Fall we went “Back to Basics” and talked about some of the elements at the core of our communal spiritual journey. This Winter we’re creating space for each community member to develop their own “basics.” Each Sunday, we’ll ask questions like, “Who am I?” “What values are important to me?” “How do I live intentionally in the world?” There are no right or wrong answers! We’ll take time together to reflect on the concepts raised, as we deepen our personal and communal spiritual lives.

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Wednesday mornings; 9:00am

Our weekly prayer group includes an inspirational reading, time to support one another, and prayers for ourselves, others, and events in the world. We gather via Zoom conference call Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00am (**Meeting ID: 850 0514 7319** **Passcode: 594909**). For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at [smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

## COTV ONLINE FITNESS

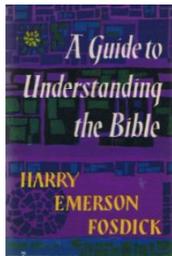
Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET. Join us via [Zoom!](#) **Meeting ID:** 878 7016 4212 **Passcode:** fitness

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



Our current Bible Study is *A Guide to Understanding the Bible* by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Harry Emerson Fosdick presents a study of the development of Biblical ideas. We will study the ideas developed by Fosdick (Idea of God; Idea of Man; Idea of Right and Wrong; Idea of Suffering; Idea of Fellowship with God; Idea of Hospitality). This book presents a different perspective for studying scripture.

We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.**

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: **713 063 594** Passcode: **10011**

## 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 347-497-9718 and ask for Teresa.

**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,** 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](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](http://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](https://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](http://ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons). We encourage you to read and share them with others.

## CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 PROTECTION POLICY

Updated September 23, 2022



From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Church of the Village has been diligent about protecting everyone connected to our church community. We have followed guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City and State of New York, as well as those shared by the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our leadership has stayed on top of new developments and adjusted our policies periodically to fit evolving conditions.

We recognize that for our members, supporters, visitors, and staff who are in proximity to New York City or visit our building, the status of the pandemic has shifted dramatically. The rates of infection, hospitalizations, and especially deaths have fallen to very low levels. This does not mean they cannot go back up and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, mask requirements have been lifted for most public spaces, including public transportation in NYC.

Therefore, we have decided to lift our own mask requirement for entry to our church building. This applies to staff as well as members and to groups that rent or use space in our building.

We continue to strongly recommend that everyone be vaccinated and boosted to the highest extent for which you are eligible. The most recent bivalent booster is available to anyone age 12 or older (Pfizer) or 18 and older (Moderna). The bivalent boosters protect against the original Covid-19 virus strain and provide stronger protection against Omicron, which is the most widespread and transmissible variant. To find a location and schedule your vaccination or booster anywhere in the United States, [click here](#)! This is not for your protection only, but for the well-being of our community, our city, and the country.

Also, we strongly encourage those persons at higher risk for infection or hospitalization – especially those with underlying health conditions – to continue to take all appropriate safety measures like masking and social distancing. All of us need to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance about self-isolation and testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).



## How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

During the Coronavirus outbreak and beyond, we want to make sure our members and supporters know how to reach key staff and leaders in the Church of the Village.

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: [PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7; (917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: [Teresa@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Teresa@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5, (347) 497-9718

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: [Office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Office@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Dwight Campbell, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: [DCampbell5938@gmail.com](mailto:DCampbell5938@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: [scape131@aol.com](mailto:scape131@aol.com)

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: [quinteromm@gmail.com](mailto:quinteromm@gmail.com)

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: [figueroaalfida045@gmail.com](mailto:figueroaalfida045@gmail.com)