



A progressive radically inclusive anti-racist community
201 West 13th Street New York NY, 10011 • (212) 2435470
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office@churchofthevillage.org

**February 18, 2024 • First Sunday in Lent •
*Celebrating Black History Month***

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



Finding Jesus in the Wilderness

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-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 Lenni-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 Lenni-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.”

WELCOME

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Child of God

**No matter what people say, say or think about you,
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**No matter what you may say, say or think about you,
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**And there is no thing or no one who can separate,
they can’t separate you from the truth that you’re someone,
You are family, you are meant to be, a Child, a Child of God!**

CENTERING PRAYER

In the Heart of God

**I am here in the heart of God,
God is here in the heart of me.
Like the wind in the desert and the desert in the wind
I am here in the heart of God.**

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 4:1-11 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit,
to be tempted by the Devil.

After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry.
Then the Tempter approached and said,
“If you are the Only Begotten,
command these stones to turn into bread.”

Jesus replied,
“Scripture has it, ‘We live not on bread alone
but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Next the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City,
set Jesus on the parapet of the Temple and said,

“If you are the Only Begotten, throw yourself down.
Scripture has it, ‘God will tell the angels to take care of you;
with their hands they will support you
that you may never stumble on a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered,
“Scripture also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’ ”

The Slanderer then took Jesus up a very high mountain
and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, promising,
“All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me.”

At this, Jesus said to the Devil,
“Away with you, Satan! Scripture says,
‘You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’ ”

At that the Accuser left, and angels came and attended Jesus.

The Word of Life and Salvation
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Finding Jesus in the Wilderness

Pastor Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

**What concepts or manifestations of wilderness are you
engaging during this 40-day Lenten journey?**

A TIME OF PRAYER

Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na sa - lam,
ya - ra - bba ssa la - mi im la qu - lu - ba - na sa - lam.

God of Peace, rain peace upon us.
God of peace, fill our hearts with peace.

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

INVITATION & RELEASE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God's love 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 response

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. God of lov - ing pow'r.
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.

repeat ad lib

Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Cantor only

Ho - san - na in the high - - - est.

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 Want Jesus to Walk With Me

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Take These Gifts

Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts. Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts.
Take my hands, oh, take my hands. Take my hands, oh, take my hands.
Bless this world, oh, bless this world. Bless this world, oh, bless this world.

Let them be to-kens of your love. Take these gifts, O God.
Let them bless; let them o - pen wide. take my hands, O God.
may it heal, may it be made whole, bless this world, O God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take These Gifts'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the final three lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Walk With Jesus

**Walk with Jesus, the journey is long (4x)
The journey, the journey, the journey is long (4x)**

Walk together, the journey is long...

WORSHIP HOSTS

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

Lector/Reader: Colby Walsh

Communion Assistant: Kelsy Evans

Dance Ministry: Martine Mallary

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: Monica Quintero (onsite); TBD (online)

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock #505950799, by stellalevi, Used by permission

Child of God

W & M: Mark A. Miller

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In the Heart of God

W & M: Erin McGaughan/Chanda Rule

Yarabba ssalami

W & M: Author unknown, Palestine

Red Lake Sanctus

W: Isa. 6:3, Matt. 21:9

M: Monte Mason after melodies found in

Chippewa Music by Frances Densmore

© *Walton Music Corp. Used by permission.*

Take My Hands

W: Adam M.L. Tice. Stz. 1, Jorge Lockward

M: Sally Ann Morris

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Hamba Nathi/Walk together

W & M: South African Freedom Song.

Eng. adaptation COTV

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

February 18 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
February 20 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
February 21 – Wednesday	6:30pm-7:30pm	God After Deconstruction discussion group
February 24 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
February 25 – Sunday	9:00am 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.

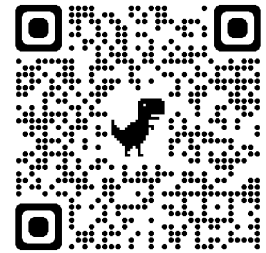
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

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



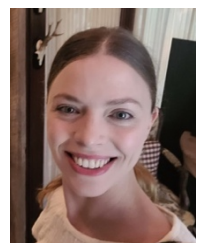
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



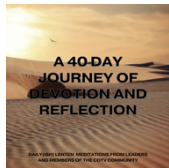
Lessons from the Wilderness
a new worship series
February 18 – March 17

Lent is a time of acknowledging our wilderness experiences. These days, there are many ways we may feel like we're wandering, whether we're carrying concern for the wars breaking out across the globe, the urgency of climate crisis, the financial uncertainty of our church community, or our own personal challenges. In this Lenten season, we join Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days, and are also reminded that the Hebrew people spent 40 *years* in the desert. How can we learn from these, and other, examples about how to honestly accept our time wandering, without being overwhelmed by despair and inaction? What familiar landmarks can we stop to identify so we don't feel so alone? Join us Sundays in Lent as we find opportunities to re-frame and re-imagine the wildernesses of our lives.



GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesdays, 2/21-3/27, 6:30pm via Zoom

During Lent, we will be offering a weekly discussion group based on the course, God After Deconstruction, created by friends of Church of the Village, Tripp Fuller and Thomas Jay Oord. Join us for a facilitated discussion led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Alexis each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30pm via Zoom. Themes include scripture, the problem of evil, faith and science, sex and gender, and others. For more details go to www.churchofthevillage.org/groups or contact Pastor Alexis at pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062849124>



A 40 DAY JOURNEY OF DEVOTION AND REFLECTION
Weekdays during Lent

During Lent we'll be offering daily(ish) devotionals and reflections from leaders and members of the COTV community, centered on wilderness. They'll offer a brief thought on how themes of wilderness have shown up in their lives, as well as an opportunity to pause and meditate, pray, or reflect further.

We hope you'll be able to engage regularly with the daily reflections, and that they are helpful in enabling you to pause in contemplation during this season. Anyone who is signed up for the COTV newsletter will receive these in their inboxes. For more information, and to see all of the reflections in one place, please visit <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/a-40-day-journey-of-devotion-and-reflection>

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 worshipping 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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Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org
Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9;
(917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie,
Minister for Leadership & Congregational
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(719) 201-6535

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