



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

April 2, 2023 • Palm / Passion Sunday

**Celebrating Earth Month and Arab American Heritage Month
Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



**"Untie Them:"
A donkey, a community,
and a celebration**

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 Lenape 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

Enter Into Jerusalem

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God’s house
with the healthy and the sick, with the worker and the weak;
let us go to God’s house.

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God’s house,
Come and run with the wind with the God who reigns in peace;
let us go to God’s house.

*We go celebrate, we go celebrate,
we go celebrate, we go celebrate.
Praise and sing of God’s love on high,
Praise God’s name in song!
Praise and sing with a heav’nly song,
with a heav’nly song, with a heav’nly song unto God!*

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God’s house,
with the young and the old, with the little and the large;
let us go to God’s house.

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God’s house,
With the straight and the queer, gender-fluid, gender-fixed –
let us go to God’s house.

WELCOME

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Open My Heart

Musical notation for the song "Open My Heart". It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The lyrics are: "O - pen my_ heart. — O - pen my heart." The first staff has a fermata over the final note of the second phrase. The second staff has a fermata over the final note of the second phrase.

O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11
 (adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*)

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, “Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, ‘The Rabbi needs them.’ Then they will let them go at once.”

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Your Sovereign comes to you without display, riding on a donkey, on a colt – the foal of a beast of burden.’”

So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered.

They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds – those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed – were all shouting, “Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High! Hosanna in the highest!”

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, “Who is this?” And the crowd kept answering, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!”

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

**“Untie Them:”
 A Donkey, a Community, and a Celebration**

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

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

Reflection Questions

Were you able to call to mind a time when you felt "tied up" or restrained?

Have you been able to "go into the village" and help others be untied into community?

Come to the Table

Come to the table (**Come to the table**)
Welcome, everyone (**Welcome, everyone**)
To the love of God (**To the love of God**)

Food for the hungry...
Rest for the weary...
Healing and wholeness...

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

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.**

**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

*Order My Steps** COTV Choir

Order my steps in your word, oh God. Lead me, guide me everyday.
Send your anointing, teach me your ways. Order my steps in your Word.
Please, order my steps in your Word.

Humbly, I ask you: teach me your will, while you are working, help me be still,
though Satan is busy, God is real; order my steps in your Word,
please, order my steps in your Word.

Bridle my tongue let my words edify,
let the words of my mouth be acceptable in your sight,
take charge of my thoughts both day and night;
Order my steps in your Word, please, order my steps in your Word.

I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, God, and I'll do your blessed will.
The world is ever changing, but you are still the same;
if you order my steps, I'll praise your name.

Order my steps in your Word. Order my tongue in your Word.
Guide my feet in your Word. Wash my heart in your Word.
Show me how to walk in your Word. Show me how to talk in your Word.
When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring
in your Word. Please order my steps in your Word.

**The COTV Choir invites you to reimagine this song as a prayer
offered by Jesus in preparation for the Holy Week journey.*

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Walk Together (The Journey is Long)

Walk together, the journey is long

Cry together...

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: Jason Brubaker

Dance Ministry: Jeana Musacchio

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Altar Design: Martha Chapman

Visuals Design: Katie Reimer & Bailey Roach

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

Soprano Sax: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: TBD

Zoom Host: Gabriel Borges

Zoom Chat: Sarah Witman

CREDITS

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Enter Into Jerusalem

W & M: Richard Ho Lung. Alternate lyrics by Jorge Lockward
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Open My Heart

W & M: Ana Hernández
© Ana Hernández
Used by permission.

Come Let Us Worship God (Come to the Table)

W & M: Ray Makeever
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Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

W: Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9
M: Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.
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Order My Steps

W & M: Glenn Burleigh

Walk Together (The Journey Is Long)

W & M: South African Freedom Song

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

April 2 – Palm Sunday	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am	Palm Sunday march Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
April 4 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
April 5 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
April 6 – Maundy Thursday	6:00pm	Maundy Thursday worship
April 7 – Good Friday	6:00pm	Good Friday worship
April 8 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
April 9 – Easter Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

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

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.
- **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!*

A HEART AND SPIRIT JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Join Church of the Village this Holy Week as we examine sacred themes for each day. We'll hold services on Palm Sunday and explore Celebration; on Maundy Thursday to reflect on Service; on Good Friday to remember Love, and on Easter Sunday to gather in Possibility. Other days throughout the week we will have opportunities for personal reflection and meditation around Cleansing, Faith, Compassion, and Waiting. Let's walk through this week in community, exploring new experiences together as we look with fresh eyes.

RECLAIMING SIN: UNDERSTANDING OUR HUMANITY WITHOUT SHAME

Our New Worship Series; Sundays during Lent, 10:30am ET



The concept of sin has been used all too often as a way to shame and control people within a religious system. As a reflex, the progressive church movement sometimes responds by ignoring this concept and shying away from using the word altogether. Avoiding sin doesn't negate its reality. It affects the personal, institutional, systemic, and so many things in between. Join us this Lenten season as we gently and lovingly explore this concept of sin, through the lens of ethics, grace, repentance, and love - tackling concepts that affect our individual and communal lives.

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Sundays starting 4/16, Noon to 1pm.



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

Thursdays starting 4/20, 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.

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE CONVERSATIONS

ANTI-RACISM - FROM INTENTION TO ACTION



Thursday, April 13, 7pm ET

Presenter: Erich Dietrich

Clinical Professor of Higher Education and International Education, NYU

(WHITE) CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM



Sunday, May 21, 12:45pm ET

Presenter: John Kleinig

Emeritus Professor of Criminal Justice/Philosophy
John Jay College/Graduate Center
CUNY

Join the Anti-racism Task Force Conversations via Zoom: **Meeting ID: 867 6866 3955** **Passcode: 029447**

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.

COTV ONLINE FITNESS



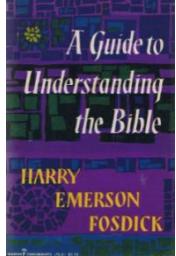
Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET

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 6:30 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-YOX3>.

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](https://www.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](https://www.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

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

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

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

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: 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

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

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Dwight Campbell, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: DCampbell5938@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scapel31@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com