



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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**September 19, 2021 • 17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Honor the Earth / Remember George Floyd / Black Lives Matter**

**No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever**

**Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



***Jesus' Mission  
and Ours***

# WE GATHER

## PRELUDE

## CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”  
Matthew 20:16

“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you,  
and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”  
Matthew 5:44

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”  
Matthew 5:5

*What Christ Is This*

**What Christ is this, who comes to us  
with paradoxical teachings,  
who leads us to another way  
and lures us into life.**

*This, this mysterious Christ  
who offers liberation,  
Come, come and release your pain  
receive God's glorious freedom.*

**So bring your tears, your rage, your fears,  
allow your silent cry to come,  
for Christ is walking right next to you  
restoring you back into life.**

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*When the Spirit in Me*

**When the Spirit in me sees the Spirit in you (2x)  
It's so easy, so easy, so easy, so easy to love//**

# WE PROCLAIM

## CALL TO LISTEN

*Listen*

**Listen to the song of the wind (3x)  
Listen, God is singing, God is singing**

**Listen to the cry of the earth...**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Luke 4:16-21 (adapted from New Revised Standard Version)*

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. Jesus stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of God is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the God’s favor.”

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the Word that calls us to life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*Jesus’ Mission and Ours*

**Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb Jr.**

Founding Co-Director of the Center for Process Studies and Process & Faith

## WE RESPOND

## WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

## INVITATION

*For Everyone Born*

**For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread;  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.**

*And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!*

**For oceans and trees a place at the table  
For birds and for fish clean water, clean air.  
With love and respect, thanksgiving, compassion –  
may all on this earth be free from despair.**

## 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.**

Friends, these are gifts of God for you and for all.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*For the Healing of the Nations*

**For the healing of the nations, let us pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.**

## TIME OF OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Al caer la lluvia (Alabanza) / When at Last the Rain Falls (Praise)*

Al caer la lluvia resurge con verdor  
toda la floresta. ¡Renueva la creación!  
Mira el rojo lirio, el duende ya brotó.  
¡Bella primavera que anuncia su fulgor!

Toda flor silvestre, la maya, el cundeamor...  
¡Todo manifiesta la gloria del Creador!  
¡Cómo se te alaba en toda la creación!  
Yo quisiera hacerlo en forma igual, Señor.

El coquí se alegra, se siente muy feliz,  
canta en su alabanza; «coquí, coquí, coquí».  
El pitirre canta y trina el ruiseñor.  
¡Cuán alegremente alaban al Creador!

When at last the rain falls, our world turns living green.  
Little flowers blossom, the air is warm and clean.  
See the gorgeous lily its radiant blooms display;  
may I just as boldly praise God in my own way.

All the little flowers and tender, curling ferns  
show their Maker's glory, each praise to God returns.  
Sing, all of creation, your Maker praises accord!  
I also will offer my songs to you, O God.

All the pretty songbirds rejoice and sing your praise,  
warble hymns exquisite, through sunny springtime days.  
Nightingales and tree frogs sing praise when it grows dark,  
only cease at daybreak, and then we hear the lark.

# **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

**BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Guide My Feet*

**Guide my feet while I run this race :|  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Stand by me...**

**Hold my hand...**

To join conversation with Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb Jr.  
type the word "PREACHER" in capital letters into the chat.

For those who want to talk or pray with a Minister of Care, you can be in a breakout Room  
one-on-one with Katie Braden by typing "CARE" in capital letters in the chat.  
(Please be aware that you may have to wait a couple minutes if someone is "in line" ahead of you.)

## WORSHIP HOSTS

**Worship Design Team:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

**PowerPoint Design:** Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

**Worship Leader:** Monica Quintero

**Holy Communion:** Pastor Jeff Wells & Ignacio Castuera

**Prayers of the People:** Joy Sanjek

**Call to Offering:** Olive Beltran

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs

**Minister of Care:** Katie Braden

**Vocalists:** Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Jorge Lockward, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts

**Saxophone & Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward & Rebecca Watts

**Bass:** Richard Garretson

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Zoom Host:** Becca Love

**Zoom Visual Host:** Danielle Haupt

**Zoom Chat Host:** Billy Spearman

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## CREDITS

### *Cover Image:*

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### *What Christ is This?*

W: Alfida Figueroa, Jorge Lockward & Katie Reimer

M: GREENSLEEVES

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services.

### *When the Spirit in Me (The Jesus in Me)*

W & M: Anonymous.

Lyric adaptation by Jorge Lockward

### *For Everyone Born*

W: Shirley Erena Murray

2nd. stanza by Jorge Lockward

M: Brian Mann

Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2006 Brian Mann (Admin. General Board of  
Global Ministries, GBGMusik)

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### *For the Healing of the Nations*

W: Fred Kaan

M: Amanda Husberg

Words © 1968, Hope Publishing Co.

Music © 1996 Abingdon Press

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### *Alabanza*

W & M: Pablo Fernández-Badillo.

Eng. trans. Madeleine Forell Marshall

W & M © 1977 Pablo Fernández-Badillo;

Eng. trans. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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### *Guide My Feet*

W & M: African American Spiritual

## 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>September 19 – Sunday</b>	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>September 21 – Tuesday</b>	3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry QUESTIONS (via Zoom)
<b>September 22 – Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00pm</b> 7:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom) BMCR/MIND Bible Study w/ Rev. Dr. Lightsey
<b>September 23 – Thursday</b>	8:15pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
<b>September 24 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>September 25 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
<b>September 26 – Sunday</b>	10:30am 12:30pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Exploring Faith (via Zoom)





Families give support, and families need support. Here at The Church of the Village, we choose to be family for one another, and we each strive to do our part. Every member of The Church of the Village family has gifts to bring.

The practice of regular giving in any amount recognizes God's abundance and strengthens our family. It builds our relationships with one another and expresses our trust in God's love. It does not matter how large or small the contribution, each donation adds to the flourishing of the family! What's important is that we do this together, with each family member doing their part as they are able. As we hear in 2 Corinthians 8:12:

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.*

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!*

To make your pledge to this year's campaign please visit: <https://forms.gle/ApxV5fSkVBCT3Qfz7>



## IN THE WAY OF JESUS: AN ADVENTURE OF IMAGINATION AND COMMITMENT

### A New Worship Series



What guides and organizes your life? What are the values and dreams that fire your imagination and inspire your commitments? Join us as theologian, philosopher, and environmentalist, Dr. John Cobb, launches our new worship series. We will explore how being a disciple of Jesus can inspire, guide, and center our choices in ways that lead to the wellbeing of all creation.

**September 26**  
Dr. John Cobb Jr.

**October 3**  
Rev. Jeff Wells

**October 10**  
Rev. Alexis Lillie

### QUESTIONS

**Tuesdays, Sept. 14 – Oct 12., 6pm**



If you're seeking further space to explore new ways of belief and practice, and ask big questions in a loving and supportive context, join us Tuesdays between September 14th and October 12th at 6pm ET. Specific direction of the group will be determined by the members in our first meeting, so come with your ideas, suggestions, and uncertainties as we foster an open space to inquire honestly. Join us via [Zoom!](#)

### PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TEXT: Intersectional Theology as a Resource for Social Justice

3-part Zoom Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey; Co-sponsored by BMCR and MIND

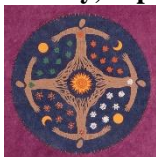
**Wednesdays, Sept 8, 15, & 22; 7pm ET**



The primary goal of these lessons is to determine how the Bible might speak to those of us who are shaded within particular contexts and overlapping identities (sex, race, gender, class) so that we are equipped to collaborate with other seekers of justice.

### EXPLORING FAITH

**Sunday, September 26; 12:30pm (following worship)**



Do you want to learn more about the Church of the Village? Are you feeling called to belong to this amazing community? Please join us on Zoom after worship Sunday, September 26. This will be a great opportunity to learn more and get to know others who are new to the Church of the Village. Contact Pastor Alexis Lillie or Pastor Jeff Wells for more information.

Join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82218263809?pwd=S25ucFB2YzRBSmE3Q2Q5dnc1VmXQZz09>

### TUESDAY FITNESS CLASS

**Tuesday mornings**

COTV Online Fitness is on hiatus for the summer. For more information please contact COTV Member Lina.

### TOGETHER IN PRAYER

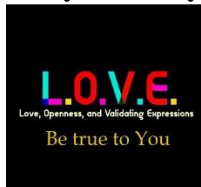
**Friday mornings; 9:30am**

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 by conference call Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15am. For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at [smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

### AGAPE SANGHA MEDITATION GROUP

Is on summer hiatus. For more information about Agape Sangha Meditation please contact Joy Sanjek at [joyfulwork47@gmail.com](mailto:joyfulwork47@gmail.com).

**L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)**  
**Every Thursday; 8:15pm ET**



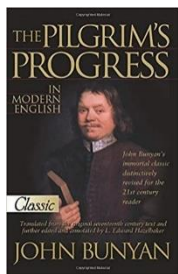
Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information please email [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org).

Join Us via [Zoom](#).

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS***

**Wednesdays; 6:30pm; Note: Bible Study will begin at 6:00pm on Wednesday, 9/22.**



*The Pilgrim's Progress* has been called “the greatest allegory ever written, now translated into modern English and edited by L. Edward Hazelbaker. We will follow Pilgrim as he makes a journey to the “Celestial City”. Each week we will experience with Pilgrim the challenges and joys that encounters along the way. We will compare and discuss our own Christian journeys with those of Pilgrim’s.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join. 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**

**ROOTS: A SMALL GROUP FOR CONNECTION AND BELONGING**

**October 12 - November 19th**



We are born with a longing for connection and belonging. We can only blossom and flourish emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually when we make conscious efforts to be curious about each other. This small group fosters deeper roots in our community by bringing people together to learn each other’s names, life stories, histories, traditions, emotions, personalities, struggles and dreams. Those who engage are asked to make a commitment to the entire 6 weeks (October 12 - November 19). If you have questions, reach out to Roots Facilitator [Alfida Figueroa](#).

**THE RED DOOR PLACE (HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED)**



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 from 3:30 – 5:30pm. No early line up permitted before 3pm.**  
**Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.**

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!**

The huge increase in unemployment and homelessness means that The Red Door Place has gone from providing food for 1,700 persons before the pandemic, to 2,500 in April, to now more than 4,000 persons every week. TRDP has plenty of volunteers. **What we need is money.** We are desperately trying to keep enough food coming in to give out to every guest. TRDP is one of only a few emergency food programs in Manhattan still giving out a significant amount of food to each guest at the pantry on Tuesdays and still offering a hot meal on Saturdays.

**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 Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food 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 join the Prayer Partners team, 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).

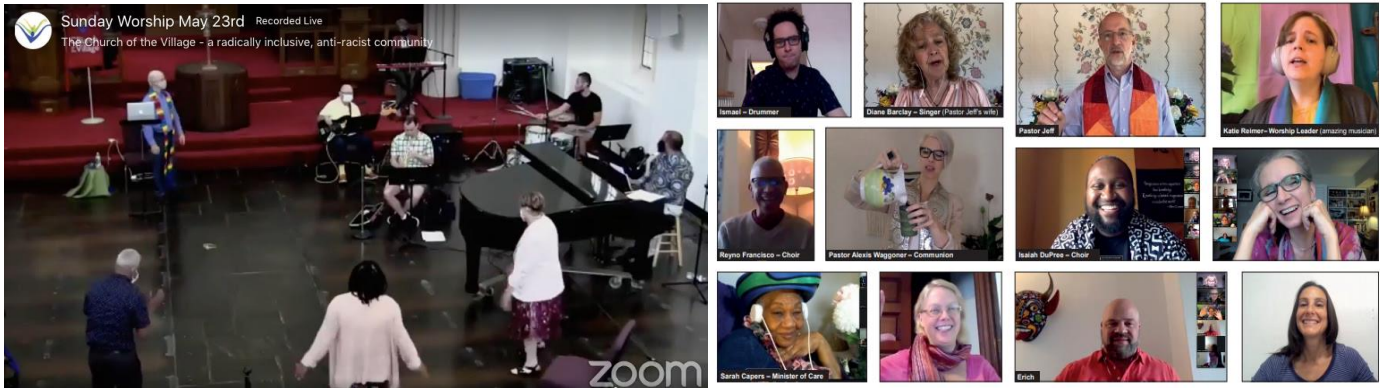
### **COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK**

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the 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://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.

## OUR ADVENTURE IN ONLINE-ONSITE COMMUNITY



On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 – for the first time since the pandemic shutdown in March 2020 – a group of leaders and artists led portions of worship from the church building in Manhattan (New York City). On April 25, a larger group gathered onsite to celebrate the Baptism of Robert Jairo Morant. On May 23, 2021, a small cohort of members of Church of the Village came to the building to participate in worship. These developments are very exciting and meaningful for those who had been away from this beloved space for more than a year. They were also meaningful for those online who have never and may not ever step foot in the building.

With the increase of cases and hospitalizations due to the Covid-19 Delta variant, we do not know when we will open to the public. We are doing all we can to keep everyone on-site as safe as possible.

As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. This is only the beginning and is part of a much bigger vision for our community.

We are not “re-opening” because the Church of the Village never closed – we only shifted our ministry to be completely online for a year. As the world slowly emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, there’s been no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic. Our reality and reach have changed dramatically in a year. We continue to attract worshippers and receive new members from across the U.S. and beyond its borders, as well as from the New York City area. **We are on a journey and living into becoming a fully online and onsite community.**

People are attracted to the Church of the Village because of our progressive theology, radical inclusivity, extravagant welcome, and focus on social, economic, and climate justice. Many who worship with us or decide to join cannot find this sort of faith community where they live. We believe it is God’s desire that each of us have the chance to have as full a life as possible by seeking the common good in healthy community together. So we are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this vision for online and onsite community, we can re-imagine John Wesley’s vision and say that the whole world, literally, can be our parish.

We encourage you to participate in as many online and onsite opportunities in the Church of the Village community as possible. Consider how you can contribute to the thriving of our lives together. If you want more information on how to connect with Church of the Village, contact [Pastor Jeff Wells](#) or [Pastor Alexis Lillie](#).



## 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: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

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

Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

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

Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

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

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.10

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place (aka Hope for Our Neighbors in Need)

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

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: [marthachapman62@gmail.com](mailto:marthachapman62@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

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

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

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

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

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