



**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](http://www.churchofthevillage.org) • [facebook.com/churchofthevillage](https://facebook.com/churchofthevillage)  
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**October 8, 2023 • Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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



**I Am Because We Are**

## 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.”*

## GATHERING SONG

*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**

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

### WE PROCLAIM

### CALL TO LISTEN

*Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

Come, come, who - ev - er\_\_ you\_ are,\_\_  
wor-ship-per, wan-der-er,\_\_ lov - er\_\_ of leav - ing\_\_  
Ours is not a ca - ra - van\_\_ of des - pair.  
Though you have brok-en your vows\_\_ a thou - sand times,  
Come, come a - gain come!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second and third staves have repeat signs at the beginning. The fourth staff also has a repeat sign at the beginning. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### *Mark 2:1–12*

Jesus came back to Capernaum after several days, and word spread that he was home. People began to gather in such great numbers that there was no longer any room for them, even around the door.

While Jesus was delivering God’s word to them, some people arrived bringing a paralyzed person. The four who carried the invalid were unable to reach Jesus because of the crowd, so they began to open up the roof directly above Jesus.

When they had made a hole, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed one was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the sufferer, “My child, your sins are forgiven.”

Jesus immediately perceived in his spirit that they reasoned this way among themselves and said to them, “Why do you harbor such thoughts? Which is easier, to say to this paralyzed person, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up, pick up your mat and walk’? But so you all may know that the Promised One has authority on earth to forgive sins —” Jesus then turned to the paralyzed person – “I tell you, stand up! Pick up your mat and go home.”

The paralyzed person stood up, picked up the mat and walked outside in the sight of everyone. They were awe-struck, and they all gave praise to God and said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

### *Luke 5:17–26 (The Inclusive Bible)*

One day, as Jesus was teaching, there were Pharisees and experts on the Law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of God was present for Jesus to heal the sick.

Then some people appeared, carrying a paralyzed person on a mat; they tried to carry the individual into the house, to set in front of Jesus. But the crowd made it impossible to get in, so they went up on the roof, made an opening in the tiles and lowered the paralyzed one into the middle of the gathering, in front of Jesus.

Seeing their faith, Jesus said, “My friend, your sins are forgiven you.”

The religious scholars and the Pharisees began to murmur among themselves, “Who is this person talking blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But Jesus, aware of their thoughts, responded to them and said, “Why do you harbor such thoughts in your hearts? Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But to prove to you that the Chosen One has authority on earth to forgive sins—” then he turned to the paralyzed person – “I tell you, get up, take up your mat and go home.”

Immediately the individual stood up in front of them, picked up the mat and went home, praising God.

They were all filled with awe and praised God, saying, “We have seen remarkable things today!”

A Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

I Am Because We Are

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

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

*I Need You to Survive*

I need you, you need me.  
We're all a part of God's body.  
Stand with me, agree with me.  
We're all a part of God's body.  
It is God's will that every need be supplied.  
You are important to me, I need you to survive.  
You are important to me, I need you to survive.

I pray for you, You pray for me.  
I love you, I need you to survive.  
I won't harm you with words from my mouth.  
I love you, I need you to survive.  
It is God's will that every need be supplied.  
You are important to me, I need you to survive.

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*One:* God be with you.  
*All:* And also with you.

*One:* Lift up your hearts!  
*All:* Our hearts are lifted!

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

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*(call and echo)*

Le-lo Le-lo Lai-lo (3x)  
Lo-le Lo-le Lo-lai.

Holy, holy, holy,  
God of loving pow'r.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.  
Hosanna in the highest!

## SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

### A TIME OF OFFERING

#### 4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- The Vanco giving app, using the link on our website <https://www.churchofthevillage.org> or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link.  
Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.
- Setting up a direct bank transfer from your bank to COTV's bank
- Mailing a check to COTV's address: 201 West 13th St., NY, NY, 10011
- For those in the church building: Placing your gift in the offering basket in the sanctuary  
For help with any of these, send an email to [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)  
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

### OFFERTORY

*Friendship*  
from *Anything Goes*, by Cole Porter

### GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Everyday Is a Day of Thanksgiving*

Everyday is a day of thanksgiving.  
God, you've been so good to me.  
Everyday you're blessing me.  
Everyday is a day of thanksgiving.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
you opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.  
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### BLESSING

### CLOSING SONG

*Draw the Circle Wide*

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide  
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still!  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone!  
Standing side by side  
draw the circle, draw the circle wide**

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, & Dwight Campbell

**Worship Leader:** Dwight Campbell

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs

**Call to Offering:** Paul Pillitteri

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

**Visuals Design:** Bailey Roach

**Vocalists:** Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Jackie Stzendera, John C. Flake, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, John Wesley Heaton, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Miles Mitchell, Shelby Hall Denney, Nora von der Heydt

**Sax/Clarinet/Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Organ:** Michael Johnson

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ushers:** Sam Winfrey

**Ministers of Care:** Sam Winfrey (on-site) & Monica Quintero (online)

**Zoom Host:** Martha Chapman

**Zoom Chat:** Sarah Witman

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** iStock image #498428944, by drante, Used by permission

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

W & M: Anonymous

Alternate lyrics by Jorge Lockward

***Come, Come, Whoever You Are***

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

M: Jorge Lockward

Music © 2019 Jorge Lockward, permission granted for non-commercial use in worship.

***I Need You to Survive***

W & M: David Frazier

© 2012 God's Music, Inc.

***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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***Everyday is a Day of Thanksgiving***

W & M: Leonard Burks

© Leonard Burks.

***Draw the Circle Wide***

W: Gordon Light

M: Mark Miller

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## 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>October 8 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
<b>October 10 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>October 11 – Wednesday</b>	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
<b>October 14 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>October 15 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet

## 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!*



## UBUNTU: THE ART OF LIVING TOGETHER

### a new worship series



“Ubuntu” is a South African term often translated as, “I am because we are.” It connotes an interdependence on one another, an existence that is made possible by others in the community. In this worship series, we’ll explore how our lives can be enriched in a loving, Christ-centered community where we are seen, cherished, called, and challenged.

Join us this Fall as we grow toward a deeper sense of knowing and belonging to God and each other. For this series, we’re bringing back topical conversations after the Sunday service! Join us in-person or online to discuss the theme of each week’s worship and preaching.

## MATCHING GRANT



Our Stewardship Committee and a member of our church are together offering a Matching Grant Fund! Their collective donation to our church is \$7500. Your gift can help our community gain a total donation of \$15,000! Scan the code for more info and to donate.



## RADICAL RESISTANCE GALA

October 22, 2023 at 6pm ET | 5pm CT | 3pm PT via Zoom!



Join LGBTQ- Religious Archives Network on October 22nd to honor 6 outstanding leaders and activists from our past and our present day who have inspired us with their "radical resistance" and their prophetic vision of justice, love and equity. LGBTQ-RAN's online GALA gathering will be a glorious celebration of LGBTQ+ religious history and LGBTQ-RAN's unique role in bringing that to life. Your participation and support help ensure that LGBTQ religious legacy will live on into the future.

Register here: [bit.ly/rrgala](https://bit.ly/rrgala)

## THE ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays after worship



The Alliance will meet the first Sunday of the month, starting October 1 after the 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.

## 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

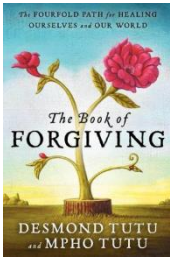
## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE BOOK OF FORGIVING*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



There have been times when each and every one of us has needed to forgive. There have also been times when each and every one of us needed to be forgiven. And there will be many more times again. Out of brokenness we hurt others, and forgiveness is the journey we take towards healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again.

Join us as we study “The Fourfold Path to Healing” outlined in “The Book of Forgiving” written by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.** 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) 687-5321 or visit [www.thereddoorplace.org](http://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,** 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 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.



## **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

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Monica Quintero,

Chair, Ministers of Care

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Alfida Figueroa, Chair,

Worship Committee

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