



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

January 7, 2023 • First Sunday after the Epiphany • *Baptism of Jesus*

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



Jesus and the Cycle of Grace

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

God Comes to Us

**God comes to us on winter’s night,
in baby’s breath, by firelight,
God comes to us on a star.
God comes to us amidst our fears,
unspoken joys, unending tears,
God comes to us, where we are.**

SHARING GODS PEACE

The Song of the Angels

God is pre-sent in this place all a-round us, in each face.
All are wel-come in this place, all are che-rished loved, em-braced.

There are an-gels in our midst this is why we dare to sing:
As we join our hearts to sing hope is born, a - ma - zing grace.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

1. in ex-cel-sis De - o. 2. in ex-cel-sis De - o.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the 'GATHERING SONG'. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the line 'Glo - - - - - ri - a' with a long note for 'Glo' and a dotted note for 'ri'. The fourth system contains the line '1. in ex-cel-sis De - o. 2. in ex-cel-sis De - o.' with a first ending bracket over the first two measures and a second ending bracket over the last two measures.

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!

**Come, come, whoever you are,
worshiper, wanderer, lover of leaving.
Ours is not a caravan of despair.
Though you have broken your vows
a thousand times.
Come, come again, come.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 1:1-5 (NRSV) & Mark 1:4-12 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

A reading from the first chapter of Genesis

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

The one called John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit." It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests." Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, experiencing hunger and temptation.

The Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Jesus and the Cycle of Grace
Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

Come to the Table of Grace



Come to the ta - ble of grace.



Come to the ta - ble of grace.



This is God's ta - ble; it's both yours and mine.



Come to the ta - ble of grace.

Come to the table of love...

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Michael Johnson, Organist

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

For the Harvests of the Spirit

Musical notation for the Grateful Response, consisting of five staves of music in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God; in the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God; for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God!"

For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God;
in the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God;
for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that
still con-found us, most of all, that
love has found us, thanks be to God!

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

God Is Building a New Way

**God is building a new way, (3x)
sending love and grace our way;
God is building a new way.**

**We are building a new way, (3x)
growing wiser ev'ry day;
we are building a new way.**

**Holy cycles carry us, (3x)
bringing us into new life;
holy cycles carry us.**

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward,
Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer
Lector/Reader: Dwight Campbell
Dance Ministry: Martine Mallary & Ted Warner
Call to Offering: Sarah Witman
Altar Design: John C. Flake
Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer
Usher: Sam Winfrey
Organ: Michael Johnson
Keyboard: Katie Reimer
Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis
Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga
Zoom Host: Sarah Whitman

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #1602205952, by Tingting Ji, Used by permission

God Comes To Us

W & M: Dirk Damonte

© 1994 Excelsior Music

Onelicense.net # A-725898

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.

God Is Present in this Place (The Song of the Angels)

W: Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

M: French carol melody

Words © 2017 Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

Permission granted for non commercial use in worship.

Come to the Table of Grace

W & M: Barbara Hamm.

© 2008 Barbara Hamm

For the Fruits of All Creation

(3rd. stz. For the Harvests of the Spirit)

W: Fred Pratt Green

M: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh melody

Words ©1970 Hope Publishing Co.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

Building a New Way

W & M: Martha Sandefer.

© 1986 Martha Sandefer

SOURCE: Singing the Journey

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

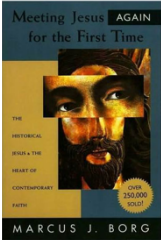
January 7– Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet The Alliance
January 9 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
January 10– Wednesday	6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom
January 13 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
January 14 – Sunday	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet United Methodist Women



AGAIN AND AGAIN: The Cycle of Grace **a new worship series**

January 7 – February 11

The new year invites us to ponder new ways of being – and brings into focus the ways we may repeatedly strive to grow over the course of our lives. Sometimes we seem to take two steps forward and one step back which can feel discouraging. Instead of viewing it as a disappointment or failure, what if we saw our continued efforts at growth as part of a cycle of grace, where the Divine continually beckons us to new life. This holy cycle is in operation in all aspects of our life and in all of creation. Like children learning to walk and forests renewing themselves after a fire, God’s grace meets us, again and again.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Wednesdays beginning January 10th; 6:30pm

In this study, Marcus Borg addresses the yearnings of those who want a fully contemporary faith that welcomes rather than oppresses our critical intelligence and openness to the best of historical scholarship. Borg shows how a rigorous examination of historical findings can lead to a new faith in Christ, one that is critical and, at the same time, sustaining. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; **Meeting ID: 713 063 594 Passcode: 10011**



CLOTHING DRIVE

December- January

For the month of December and January, we will be collecting clothing donations for several organizations where Church of the Village members work or have ties. We are seeking: - Donations of *new* socks and underwear for men in all sizes - Donations of *new* winter clothing items for men, women, and children - Donations of *new* winter coats for men, women, and children You can bring these donations to worship on Sundays through December and January. (If you have gently used and / or additional items in all sizes, we are happy to take those donations for our community closet on an ongoing basis as well.)

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**).

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.



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](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. We encourage you to read and share them with others.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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

Dwight Campbell, Chair,

Vision & Ministry Council

Email: DCampbell15938@gmail.com

Sarah Capers,

Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Monica Quintero,

Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair,

Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com