



**the
Church
of
the Village**



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

November 26, 2023 • Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

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



Pain Denied by Joy Sanjek

Conversations with Joy

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Leni-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 Leni-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 Leni-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

CELEBRATION OF NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We Sing in Praise of God’s Love

**We sing in praise of God’s love, who sent you to us
as a witness for justice and peace.
May God’s embrace be your shield as you boldly share
who you are, what you’ve learned, what you bring.**

**God’s blessing in your coming in,
God’s blessing in your going out.
May God’s love bless and increase the fruit of all your labor,
in your life, your loves, your service,
may God’s love bless and increase.**

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 image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come, Come, Whoever You Are'. It consists of five staves of music in 4/4 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second and third staves have repeat signs at the beginning. The fourth staff also has a repeat sign. The fifth staff begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line.

**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

Ruth 1:1-22 (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)

Long ago, when Judges governed Israel, a famine swept over the land.
So a family from the town of Bethlehem in Judah,
a woman and man and their two children, emigrated to the region of Moab.
The man was named Elimelech, the woman's name was Naomi,
and their two sons were named Mahlon and Chilon.
They were Ephrathites, that is, from Bethlehem of Judah.
They arrived in the land of Moab and settled there.

Soon afterward Elimelech died, leaving Naomi and the two sons
to fend for themselves.

The two sons eventually married two Moabite women,
whose names were Orpah and Ruth.
They had lived in the land of Moab for about ten years
when both Mahlon and Chilon died.

Now that Naomi had lost both of her children as well as her husband,
she prepared to take her daughters-in-law and leave the land of Moab
and return to her homeland, for she had heard that YHWH had visited the people
by providing an abundance of food.

So she and her two daughters-in-law left the house where they had been living,
and she set out on the road to Judah.

But Naomi told each of her daughters-in-law,

“Return to your mother’s house.

May the Most High care for you with the same kindness that you have cared
for your dead and for me. May the Most High give you security and
true fulfillment, and lead you to new spouses.”

Then she kissed them both.

But they wept loudly and said to Naomi,

“No, we want to go back with you to the land of your people!”

But Naomi said to them.

“Go back, my daughters. Why do you want to come with me?

I have no more sons inside me that you can take as spouses.

No, you must go back, my daughters. I am too old to marry again.

Even if I told you that there was still hope for me,

if I were to find a spouse and have children tonight,

would you be willing to wait until they are grown to marry them?

Would you refuse to remarry for this far-off hope?

No, if you did that, it would tear me apart,

for the hand of the Most High has been raised against me.”

And once more they wept loudly.

Then Orpah kissed Naomi and returned to her people.

But Ruth stayed by her side. Naomi said to Ruth,

“Look, your sister-in-law has returned to her people
and to the god of her ancestors. You too must go. Follow your sister-in-law.”

But Ruth said to Naomi,

“Please don’t ask me to leave you and turn away from your company.

I swear to you: Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge.

Your people will be my people, and your God, my God.

Where you die, I’ll die there too and I will be buried there beside you.

I swear—may YHWH be my witness and judge—

that not even death will keep us apart.”

Seeing that Ruth was determined to accompany her, Naomi said no more.

And together they walked, until they came to Bethlehem.

When they arrived, the town was abuzz with gossip because of them.

The townspeople said to each other,

“Could this sad person be Naomi, our ‘Joy’?”

But Naomi said to them,

“Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara, ‘Bitterness,’ for YHWH has afflicted me, and Shaddai has brought bitter
destruction on me.

I was filled to the brim when I departed, but YHWH has brought me back empty. Why insist on calling me
Naomi, since YHWH has passed sentence upon me and Shaddai has brought me to ruin?”

And that is how Naomi left the land of Moab with Ruth the Moabite and returned to Bethlehem, arriving just as the barley harvest was beginning.

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Conversations with Joy

Joy Sanjek, Guest Preacher

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

- Where and how do you feel compassion in your being?
- Share a bit about a circumstance you chose to bring compassion into.

In the Journey

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "In the jour - ney we are one. In the jour - ney we are one. In the jour - ney we are one. (we are one) In the jour - ney we are one. we are one, we are one, we are one, we are one,". The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the phrase "we are one".

**In the healing we are one...
In the blessing we are one...**

A TIME OF HEALING

Spirit of Life

**Spirit of Life, shared, common breath.
Sing in our hearts all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea,
move in the hand giving life the shape of justice.
Roots, hold us close;
Wings, set us free;
Spirit of Life, rise within, rise within.**

Way Maker

**You are here moving in our midst
We worship you, we worship you
You are here working in this place
We worship you, we worship You**

***Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper
Light in my shadows, oh God that is who you are***

**You are here touching every heart
We worship you, we worship you
You are here healing every heart
We worship you, we worship you**

**You are here turning lives around
We worship you, we worship you
You are here mending every heart
We worship you, we worship you, God
That is who you are**

**Even when we don't see it you're working
Even when we don't feel it you're working
You never stop, you never stop working
You never stop, you never stop working**

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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray

Upon the mountain my God spoke
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke
Looked all around me, it looked so fine
Till I asked my God if all was mine.

Jordan river, is chilly and cold
It chills the body but not the soul
There ain't but one train, upon this track
It runs to heaven, and right back.

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
Lector/Reader: Dwight Campbell
Dance Ministry: Elizabeth Levy & Martine Mallary
Call to Offering: John Kleinig
Altar Design: John C. Flake
Visuals Design: Bailey Roach
Vocalists: Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Kelsey Evans, John C. Flake, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, John Wesley Heaton, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Shelby Hall Denney, Nora von der Heydt
Organ: Michael Johnson
Keyboard: Jorge Lockward
Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis
Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga
Usher: Sam Winfrey
Ministers of Care: Monica Quintero (on-site) & TBD (online)
Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

CREDITS

Cover Image: Pain Denied by Joy Sanjek

The Jesus in Me (When the Spirit in Me)

W & M: Author Unknown

Alternate lyrics by Jorge Lockward

We Sing In Praise of God's Love

W: adapted by Jorge A. Lockward

M: Nilcéia Protázio

Music © Nilcéia Protázio (nilceiaprotasio@gmail.com)

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

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

M: Jorge Lockward

Music © 2019 Jorge Lockward.

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In the Journey (In the Waters)

Words: Jorge Lockward

Music: Nehemiah Lockett

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Spirit of Life

W & M: Carolyn McDade

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Way Maker

W & M: Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

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Every Time I Feel the Spirit

W & M: African American Spiritual

arr. William L. Dawson

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.

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

November 26 – 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 Healing Conversations
November 27 – Monday	6:30pm	Cantico Nuevo Choir rehearsal
November 28 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm 7:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry Roots (via Zoom)
November 29 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30 pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal Bible Study
December 2 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
December 3– Sunday	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Choir rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Pageant Rehearsal

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!*

AWAITING DAWN an Advent worship series December 3 - December 24



Advent is a season of waiting, of hopeful anticipation. Yet both hope and anticipation can sometimes fall flat when held up against life's most difficult realities. When embraced and lived out well, the church's unique gift is that we aren't forced into performing false feelings, but are allowed to sit in the shadows that so often arise. During these four weeks we'll explore what is possible when we acknowledge the heaviness around us, while allowing dawn to break through the clouds as we wait in expectation for eventual light.

SHARING SYMBOLS OF GOD'S ABUNDANCE FOR THE ALTAR

Many thanks to all who have contributed symbols of God's abundance for use in the church altar this season. We have had items brought from all regions and mostly from nature.

As we approach Thanksgiving later this month, there is still a chance to bring symbols. Please contact John C. Flake (johncflake@gmail.com) / (347) 462-5892) who coordinates Altar Design for Church of the Village.

COTV CHRISTMAS MARKET



December 9 (10a-6pm) & December 10 (1pm-6pm)

Come to COTV's Christmas Market to shop handmade gifts, jewelry, ornaments, knitting, sewing, oils, woodworking, holiday cards, pottery, etc. from local artists. Enjoy a festive atmosphere and sip hot apple cider, coffee and cookies provided by COTV.

We are also looking for vendors interested in selling their products. To sign up, fill out this form - forms.gle/JLAdy5UrorKXgRsF8. To ask questions, write to office@churchofthevillage.org.



COTV CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 17, 10 AM

We are looking for folks to get involved in our Christmas Pageant at Church of the Village! Actors, tech crew, stagehands, etc. please reach out to Martha Chapman (marthachapman62@gmail.com) to find out more.

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).

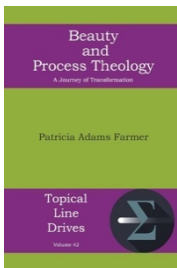
TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *BEAUTY AND PROCESS THEOLOGY*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



In this book, theologian and pastor Patricia Adams Farmer invites us to move beyond limiting ways we have of speaking of God. She sees God as both beautiful and the ongoing author of beauty. God invites us in living a vision, and that vision is not just “good” in some abstract sense. It is attractive. It draws us in. It is active. It challenges us.

Learn to think about and experience God in a new way as you bring process and beauty together. The journey is worth it! 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.

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) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshipping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos.

SERMON ARCHIVE

If you missed worship or want to read the sermon again, we post many of our past Sunday sermon manuscripts and worship bulletins on our website at ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons. We encourage you to read and share them with others.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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

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Teresa Concepción,

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Dwight Campbell, Chair,

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Sarah Capers,

Lay Leader

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Monica Quintero,

Chair, Ministers of Care

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Alfida Figueroa, Chair,

Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com