



**the
Church
of
the Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

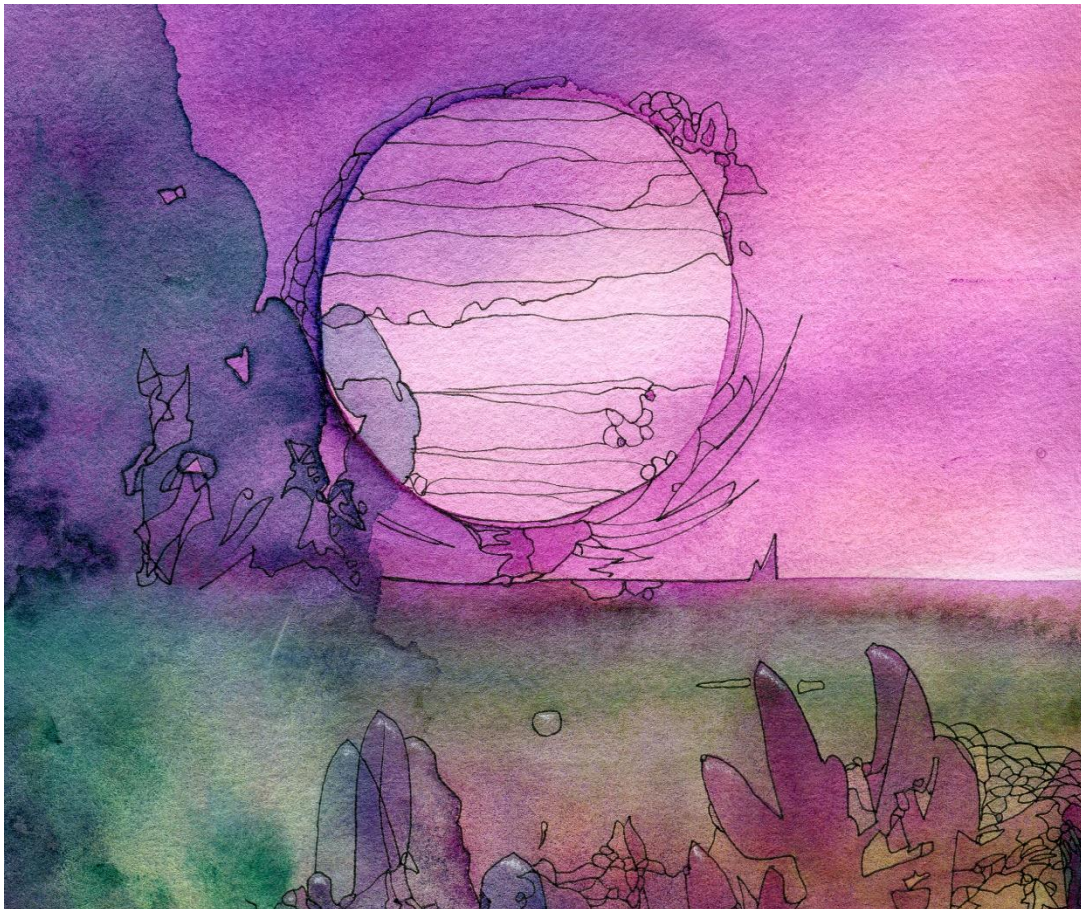
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December 5, 2021 • 2nd Sunday of Advent

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

No Human Being Is “Illegal” / No Muslim Ban Ever

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



***Came or Coming?
Advent as Adventure in Process***

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Come To Be Our Hope

**Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set our people free.
From oppression come, release us, grant us your true liberty.
Come, release from every prison all who suffer on this earth.
In your love we'll find the reason still to live into new birth.**

**Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set our people free.
From oppression come, release us, grant us your true liberty.
Come, release from every prison all who suffer in this world.
In your love we'll find the reason still to live and understand.**

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Bambelela

Bambelela ///
bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba,
Oh! Bamba, bambelela.

Never give up ///
never, never, never, never, never
Oh! Never, never give up.

Never lose hope...

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Revelation 21:5-6 (The Inclusive Bible)

The one who sat on the throne said, "Look! I'm making everything new!" and added,
"write this, for what I am saying is trustworthy and true."

And that one continued, "it is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
To those who are thirsty I will give drink freely from the spring of the water of life.

Isaiah 11:1-10 (The Inclusive Bible)

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom: The spirit of YHWH will rest on you – a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH. You will delight in obeying YHWH, and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay. You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people. Justice will be the belt around this your waist – faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox. The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest. There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my Holy mountain; for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH.

On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world – nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

This is the Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Came or Coming? Advent as Adventure in Process

Dr. Catherine Keller
George T. Cobb Professor of Constructive Theology
The Theological School and Graduate Division of Religion, Drew University

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

INVITATION

We are People on a Journey

We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are God's community.

Come in joy and celebration to the table set by love.

God has sent the invitation.
Everyone is welcome here.

Come in joy and celebration to the table set by love.

Come and bring your thirst for justice,
bring your sorrow, bring your tears.

Come in joy and celebration to the table set by love.

Share the bread of life abundant,
share the cup that makes us free.

Come in joy and celebration to the table set by love.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Maybe This Time (from Cabaret)

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Are You Ready

**Are you ready?
Are you ready for the coming of the Christ?
“Be ye also ready; you know not the day;
When the Christ shall come, when the Christ shall come.
Will you be ready when Jesus comes?”**

To join conversation with Dr. Catherine Keller
type the word “**PREACHER**” in capital letters into the chat.

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care,
you can do that on-site with Sam Winfrey in the Narthex.
You can connect online with Virginia Riker
by typing “**CARE**” in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team:

Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

PowerPoint Design: Gabriel Borges, Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: Diane Barclay

Advent Candle Lighting: The Echevarria Family and The Reimer Family

Call to Offering: Joy Sanjek

Dance Ministry: Maura Burns & Martine Mallary

Ministers of Care: TBD (online) & TBD (on-site)

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Jorge Lockward, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: TBD

Zoom Host: Becca Love

Zoom Visual Host: TBD

Zoom Chat Host: Paul Pillitteri

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

iStock Image #519218669, by ArtesiaWells, Used by permission

Come To Be Our Hope

W: Jaci Maraschin

M: HYFRYDOL (Rowland Hugh Prichard)

Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, Brazil

Words © Jaci Maraschin

Music © Marcílio de Oliveira Filho.

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Bambelela

W & M: Xhosa - South Africa

Somos pueblo que camina/We Are Pilgrims on a Journey

W & M: Guillermo Cuéllar, from the Misa popular salvadoreña. English adaptation by COTV

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

W: 9th c. Latin

M: 15th c. French; arr. And harm. By Thomas Helmore

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Are You Ready?

W & M: James Cleveland Mass Choir



16TH ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUN. DEC. 19TH, 10:30AM

MORE INFO: CHURCHOFTHEVILLAGE.ORG



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

December 5 – Sunday	10:30am 12:00pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care
December 7 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: No Food Pantry
December 8 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
December 10 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
December 11 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP CLOSED: No Community Meal
December 12 – Sunday	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women



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.
- **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!

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

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

From January through November 2021, congregational giving at COTV totaled \$115,305.84, which is 85.41% of our congregational giving goals for 2021. Thanks be to God and to our faithful COTV family!

OUR GUEST PREACHER: DR. CATHERINE KELLER



Catherine Keller is Professor of Constructive Theology at the Theological School of Drew University, where she has trained ministers and theologians for over three decades. She writes quite a bit. On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process, offers an accessible introduction to process theology. And just out is Facing Apocalypse: Climate, Democracy and Other Last Chances. She is a member of Saint Paul and Saint Andrew UMC, right uptown.

ADVENT MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

A New Worship Series

Sundays, November 28 – December 19, 2021



We often think of Advent as a time of expectant waiting. But what about when we are stuck in the midst of despair? Or what if we're unsure of what we're waiting for? Can we hold in tension possibility and hope; despair and cynicism?

Join us for this Advent series that will invite us to seek the lights we need for our own journey – while acknowledging that any despair, grief, or unease we feel aren't things to be rushed past, but experiences to be traveled through.

EXPLORING FAITH

Sunday, November 28, 2021, after 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, November 28. 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 via Zoom!

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.

L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)

1st & 3rd Thursdays; 8:30pm 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.

Join Us via [Zoom](#).

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina returns Tuesdays at 10:30 am ET.

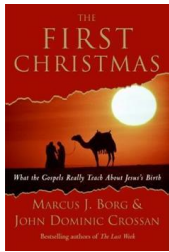
Join us via [Zoom](#)!

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our a new study, *The First Christmas* by Marcus Bored, will focus as an in-depth examination of the Christmas stories recorded in the gospels. We will examine the similarities and differences of each story during the Advent Season. Everyone is invited to join us.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 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

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 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. **There will be No Community Meal on Saturdays, December 11 - January 1. The Community Meal will resume Jan. 8, 2022.**

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

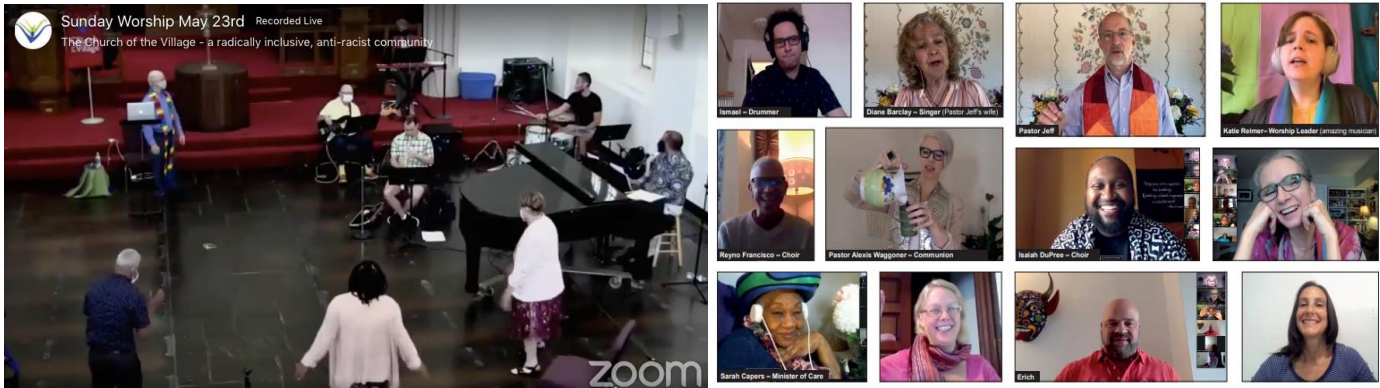
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

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

OUR ADVENTURE IN ONLINE-ONSITE COMMUNITY



The Church of the Village never “closed” during the Covid-19 pandemic because we shifted our entire ministry to be online in March 2020. Then, as the world began slowly to emerge in the summer of 2021 from the worst of the pandemic, there was no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic.

Our reality and our 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. As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. We opened to all of our vaccinated members in September 2021 and have expanded vision and our capacities since then to become a fully online and onsite community. We are actively evaluating when to open fully to the vaccinated public.

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. We are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this dream becoming reality, 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

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

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

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

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7; (917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: livnyc@gmail.com

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: reimerkatie@gmail.com