



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

March 31, 2024 • Easter Sunday
Celebrating Women's History Month

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



Perpetual Resurrection:
Turning Our Hearts Toward the Good

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.”

AN EASTER STORY

Alleluia

A - le-lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

A - le-lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

A - le-lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over,
Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome
bought perfumed oils so that they could anoint Jesus.
Very early, just after sunrise on the first day of the week,
they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another,
“Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”
When they looked, they found that the huge stone had been rolled back.

On entering the tomb, they saw a young person sitting at the right,
dressed in a white robe. They were very frightened,
but the youth reassured them:

“Do not be amazed!
You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified.

He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.
Now go and tell the disciples and Peter,
‘Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee,
where you will see him just as he told you.’”

They made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling;
but they said nothing to anyone, because they were so afraid.

WELCOME

HOLY BAPTISM: A CELEBRATION OF SACRED BELONGING

In the Waters

The musical notation is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: "In the wa-ters, we are one. In the wa-ters, we are one." The second staff contains the melody for the final phrase: "In the wa-ters, we are one. We are one, we are one, we are one." The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes.

In the wa-ters, we are one. In the wa-ters, we are one.

In the wa-ters, we are one. We are one, we are one, we are one.

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Friends, since the earliest times, the covenant of baptism starts with a renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.

Pastor: So... Scarlet, on behalf of the Church of the Village community, I ask you: Will you resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Scarlet: **I will.**

Pastor: Will you strive to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbor as yourself?

Scarlet: **I will.**

Pastor: Will you follow Jesus' example of practicing liberating love and radical inclusion, extending welcome toward people in their full expression of humanity?

Scarlet: **I will.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT

Pastor: Scarlet, we baptize you
in the name of our Mother/Father God,
of Jesus our Liberator,
and of the Holy Spirit our Companion and Guide.
Amen.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Scarlet,
may the Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may grow in faith, love, justice, and courage.
Amen.

All: Amen.

THE ANOINTING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Child of God

**And there is no thing or no one who can separate,
they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone,
You are family, you are meant to be, a Child, a Child of God!**

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

THE VOWS OF MEMBERSHIP

Pastor: On behalf of the Church of the Village community, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness
and reject the evil powers of this world?

New members: I do.

Pastor: Will you resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

New members: I will.

Pastor: Will you strive to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbor as yourself?

New members: I will.

Pastor: Will you follow Jesus' example of practicing liberating love and radical inclusion, extending welcome toward people in their full expression of humanity?

New members: I will.

Pastor: Will you join your journey to ours, seeking to strengthen this community through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness, radical inclusivity, and work for justice?

New members: I will.

CONGREGATIONAL VOWS

Lay Leader: Will you receive them into this community, committing to journey with them as chosen family?
ALL: **We joyfully welcome you!**

Lay Leader: Will you surround them with a spirit of courage so they feel free to live into their highest potential and calling?
ALL: **We will**

Lay Leader: Will you extend grace to them, enabling them to try new things, shift perspective, and grow in their relationship with the divine?
ALL: **We will**

PRAYER

PRESENTATION

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The Gospel of Mary 4-5 (adapted from A New New Testament)

When the Blessed One had said these things, he greeted them all, saying,
“Peace be with you!
Bear my peace within yourselves!
Beware that no one lead you astray saying,
‘Look over here!’
Or ‘Look over there!’
For the Child of True Humanity is within you!
Follow it!
Those who seek it will find it.
Go then and proclaim the good news of the realm.
Do not lay down any rules beyond what I determined for you,
nor give a law like the lawgiver,
lest you be confined by it.”
When he had said this, he departed.

But they were pained.
They wept greatly, saying,
“How shall we go to the nations
and proclaim the good news of the Child of Humanity?
If they did not spare him, how will they spare us?”

Then Mary stood up.
She greeted them all,
and said to her brothers and sisters,
“Do not weep and be pained,
nor doubt,
for all his grace will be with you and shelter you.
But rather let us praise his greatness,
for he has prepared us and made us Humans.”
When Mary said this,
she turned their heart to the Good,
and they began to discuss the words of the Savior.

The Word of Life and Salvation.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*Perpetual Resurrection:
Turning Our Hearts Toward the Good*

Pastor Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

There Shall Be Life and Love
COTV Choir and Sacred Dancers

There shall be life and love,
There shall be joy and fun
God's beauty shall unfold.
God's justice shall be done.

And the tomb shall host the life
that links us all to earth.

There shall be life and love...

There shall be tender care
healing the wounded soil
There shall be rain-bow peace.
bringing us rest from toil

Love shall encircle all drawing us ever on
sap shall rise within
herald of spring's new dawn.

There shall be life and love...

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

Because He Lives
Michael Johnson, Organ

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

**Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, John C. Flake, Becca Love, Katie Reimer

Lector/Reader: Becca Love

Dance Ministry: Maura Burns, Martha Chapman, Megan Haungs, Apollonia Holzer, Elizabeth Levy

Call to Offering: Katie Reimer

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Maura Burns, Shelby Hall Denney, Kelsey Evans, Alfida Figueroa, John C. Flake, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, John Wesley Heaton, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Bruce Rescorl, Nora von der Heydt, Colby Walsh, Suzie Wilder

Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: Valerie Roa (onsite); Jim Norton (online)

Zoom Host: Gabriel Borges

Sound Engineer: Maya Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

Women of Holy Week (Easter) (C) Ally Barrett (www.reverendally.org), Used by permission

Aleluia! (Brazil)

M: Simeio Monteiro

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In the Waters

Words: Jorge Lockward

Music: Nehemiah Lockett

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Child of God

W & M: Mark A. Miller

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Fanga Alafia

W & M: West African Greeting Song

There Shall Be Life and Love

W: William Livingstone Wallace

M: Jorge Lockward

W: © William Livingstone Wallace

M: © 2024 Jorge Lockward, Permission granted for non-commercial use in worship

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

W: Charles Wesley

M: EASTER HYMN

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

March 31 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Easter Sunday worship Community Closet
April 2 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
April 3 – Wednesday	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	God After Deconstruction Choir Rehearsal
April 6 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
April 7 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship Community Closet

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Community, Commitment, and Courage

I give because I need to support the people and places that give me life.

I give because I gotta put my money where my mouth is...

I give because this community looks like God's Kin-dom in action to me.

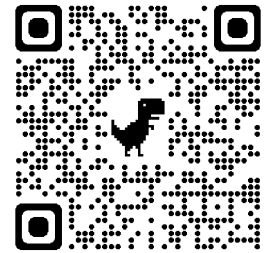
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

We, the Stewardship Team, are grateful for the many ways your commitment to our community expresses itself. In particular, we are grateful that you see financial giving as one of the ways in which you covenant with other members of this community and with the God whose love draws us together and outward to the world in which our lives are lived. As you give prayerful discernment to your gifting for 2024 – your expression of solidarity with fellow journeyers in faith – please consider the many individuals, initiatives, and hopes that reside in our congregation and give as generously as you are able.

You can express your commitment via: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>. Or, if you have questions, via: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org.

As we work together to foster, support and grow, we have tried to make it easy to give. Apart from our weekly collection basket for those on site, we offer the following:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT**
- **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!



Jason Brubaker



John Kleinig



Jorge Lockward



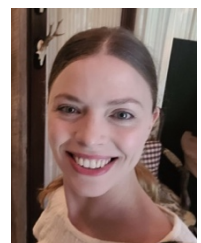
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



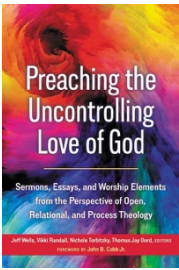
Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



PREACHING THE UNCONTROLLING LOVE OF GOD BOOK LAUNCH

Tuesday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 3

We are excited to share the news that the new book, *Preaching the Uncontrolling Love of God* will be released on Monday, April 1. The book will be available from multiple online booksellers.

We invite you to join us for the in-person book launch (also on Zoom) at the Church of the Village (NYC) on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm ET or the online Zoom book launch on Wednesday, April 3 at 3:30pm PT / 4:30pm MT / 5:30pm CT / 6:30pm ET.

For more information and to register: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/preaching-the-uncontrolling-love-of-god>

This important book was co-edited by Jeff Wells, Vikki Randall, Nichole Torbitzky, and Thomas Jay Oord. John B. Cobb Jr. wrote the Foreword. It has endorsements from Brian McLaren, Tripp Fuller, and Karen Strand Winslow.

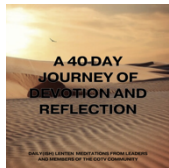


GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, **EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 24th, 6:30pm via Zoom**

During Lent, we will be offering a weekly discussion group based on the course, God After Deconstruction, created by friends of Church of the Village, Tripp Fuller and Thomas Jay Oord. Join us for a facilitated discussion led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Alexis each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30pm via Zoom. Themes include scripture, the problem of evil, faith and science, sex and gender, and

others. For more details go to www.churchofthevillage.org/groups or contact Pastor Alexis at pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062849124>



A 40 DAY JOURNEY OF DEVOTION AND REFLECTION

Weekdays during Lent

During Lent we'll be offering daily(ish) devotionals and reflections from leaders and members of the COTV community, centered on wilderness. They'll offer a brief thought on how themes of wilderness have shown up in their lives, as well as an opportunity to pause and meditate, pray, or reflect further.

We hope you'll be able to engage regularly with the daily reflections, and that they are helpful in enabling you to pause in contemplation during this season. Anyone who is signed up for the COTV newsletter will receive these in their inboxes. For more information, and to see all of the reflections in one place, please visit <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/a-40-day-journey-of-devotion-and-reflection>

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).

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.

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

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