



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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**May 12, 2024 • Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
***Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month***  
***Mother's Day***

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



***Have You Met Jesus?***

## **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 & SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

*Good to Be Alive*

**It’s so good to be, to be here all together  
It’s so good to be, so good to be alive  
Thank you, God, for this goodness.  
So good to be, to be alive.**

We have been called to be an Easter people  
to be a sign of what is yet to be.  
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:  
Thank you, God, we’re on our way!

We won’t ignore what is happening all around us  
and won’t be bound by the shackles of despair.  
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:  
Thank you, God, we’re on our way!

## **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!

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### *Acts 9:1-19 (The Inclusive Bible)*

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus.

Saul had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both women and men.

As Saul traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do."

Those traveling with Saul were speechless. They heard the voice, but could see no one.

Saul got up from the ground unable to see, even though his eyes were open.

They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus.

For three days Saul continued to be blind, during which time he ate and drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.  
Christ appeared to Ananias in a vision, saying, “Ananias.”

Ananias said, “Here I am.”

Then Christ said to him,  
“Go at once to Straight Street, and at the house of Judah  
ask for a certain Saul of Tarsus. He is there praying.  
Saul had a vision that a man named Ananias will come and lay hands on him  
so that he would recover his sight.”

But Ananias protested,  
“I have heard from many sources about Saul and all the harm he has done  
to your holy people in Jerusalem.  
He is here now with authorization from the chief priests  
to arrest everybody who calls on your name.”

Christ said to Ananias,  
“Go anyway. Saul is the instrument I have chosen to bring my Name to Gentiles,  
to rulers, and to the people of Israel.  
I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name.”

With that Ananias left.

When Ananias entered the house, he laid his hands on Saul, saying,  
“Saul, my brother, I have been sent by Jesus Christ,  
who appeared to you on the way here,  
to help you recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes,  
and he regained his sight.  
Saul got up and was baptized,  
and his strength returned after he had eaten some food.

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

## MESSAGE

*Have You Met Jesus?*  
Pastor Alexis Lillie  
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

# WE RESPOND

## A TIME OF SHARING

Where are the “everyday” places that you see Christ (the spirit of Jesus made real in the world)?

## WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

*Open the Eyes of Our Hearts*

*Open the eyes of our hearts now*

*Open the eyes of our hearts*

*We want to see you*

*We want to see you*

To see you everywhere we go  
in the many shapes of your glory

Open the eyes of our hearts

as we sing holy, holy, holy,

holy, holy, holy –

We want to see you

To see you in this bread and cup  
as we share your love at this table.

Pour out your Spirit of Grace

as we sing holy, holy, holy,

holy, holy, holy –

We want to see you

## INVITATION & RELEASE

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Pastor:* God be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Pastor:* Lift up your hearts!

*All:* **Our hearts are lifted!**

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to God!

*All:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Vos sos el Dios de los pobres (You Are the God of the People)**

*You are the God of the people,  
the God who's human and simple  
the God that sweats in the city  
your face is tired and weathered.  
That's why I can talk with you  
the way I talk with my people,  
you are the blue collar worker  
and Christ is a worker too.*

You are selling trinkets in the corner,  
hoping for enough to feed your own.  
You're the Uber driver working night shifts  
and then serving coffee in Starbucks.  
You're in constant fear of being deported—  
What will happen to your children, then?  
You're the Muslim woman demanding justice,  
daring to be free with every step.

You're the ex-convicted felon hoping  
for a job that never, ever comes  
You're the kid that sleeps on steps of churches  
and yet, still believes that there is hope.  
You are battling cancer with defiance,  
your insurance makes it a worse hell.  
You're the common Joe, the average Mary  
just trying to survive with each paycheck.

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

### *For One Great Peace*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. It consists of four staves of music, each with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in two columns per staff, with some lines containing two phrases. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

This thread I weave, this step I dance,  
this pot I shape, this fire I light,  
this check I write, this march I join,  
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,  
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,  
this faith I state, this truth I sign,  
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,—  
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,—  
this is small part, in one small place,—  
this flag I wave, this note I sing,  
this child I raise, this earth I tend,  
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### *Love Is Stronger*

**Love is stronger,  
love is so much stronger,  
Love is stronger,  
Love is stronger than hate.**

**Faith is stronger  
Faith is so much stronger  
Faith is stronger  
Faith is stronger than fear**

**Life is stronger  
Life is so much stronger  
Life is stronger  
Life is stronger than death**

## WORSHIP HOSTS

**Worship Design:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward,  
Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer  
**Lector/Reader:** Dwight Campbell  
**Onsite Communion Assistant:** Don Miguel Carrington  
**Online Communion:** Jim Norton  
**Dance Ministry:** Martha Chapman & Aliyah Miller  
**Call to Offering:** Jason Brubaker  
**Altar Design:** John C. Flake & Scarlett Begonia  
**Visuals Design:** Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer  
**Organ:** Michael Johnson  
**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward  
**Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass:** Matthew Willis  
**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga  
**Zoom Host:** Gabriel Borges  
**Sound Engineer:** Maya Maldonado  
**Ministers of Care:** TBD

## CREDITS

*Cover Image:* iStock Image #1297704884, by stellalevi, Used by permission

### ***Draw the Circle Wide***

W: Gordon Light  
M: Mark Miller  
© 2008 Abingdon Press  
Onelicense.net # 101422

### ***Open The Eyes Of Our Hearts***

W & M: Paul Baloche.  
© 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music  
CCLI License #1125761

### ***Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)***

W & M: Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.  
© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.  
Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***I Dream of a Church***

W & M: Mark Miller  
© 2015 Choristers Guild  
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### ***For One Great Peace***

W: Shirley Erena Murray  
M: Jim Strathdee  
W: ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. Music © 1998 Desert Flower Music  
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### ***Love Is Stronger***

W & M: Jorge A. Lockward  
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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>May 12 – Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
<b>May 14 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
<b>May 15 – Wednesday</b>	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	Bible Study: Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time Choir Rehearsal
<b>May 18 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
<b>May 19 – Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) 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.

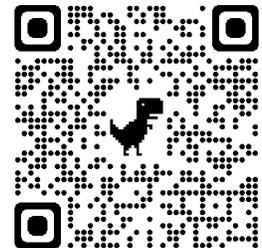
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

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](mailto: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](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!*



Jason Brubaker



John Kleinig



Jorge Lockward



Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman

## EASTER IS NOT THE END!

### A new worship series: Sunday April 14 – Sunday May 19



Jesus is risen - now what?! The post-resurrection stories of Jesus and his followers offer glimpses into this new way of living and being to which we are called. As the early Jesus communities grew and developed, they worked to make sense of how to live as the resurrected body of Christ in the world. Stories like Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus, or of the community sharing a breakfast on the beach offer paradigms of this life to which God calls us, and that we are still working to make manifest in the world.

## 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

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

### Wednesdays at 6:30pm



Please join us as we read, discuss, and expand our understanding of the life and times of Jesus through the book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" written by Marcus J Borg. 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.

We would be delighted to have you join us. Everyone is Welcome. Facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess.

**Join us via Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/713063594>

**Join us 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 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](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

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Pastor Alexis Lillie,  
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