



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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January 2, 2022 • 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



***Shining in the Shadows:
A Difficult Invitation***

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

What Child Is This

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?**

*This, this is Christ, God's Word, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.**

**Our God arrives in humble guise As baby born of woman,
That we might see the dignity enfleshed in every human.**

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Song of the Angels

**God is present in this place
all around us, in each face.
There are angels in our midst
this is why we dare to sing –**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**All are welcome in this place,
all are cherished, loved, embraced.
As we join our hearts to sing
hope is born, amazing grace.**

**Glory to God in the highest!*

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. the Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light – a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came One named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. John wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light – the true Light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world – was in the world – and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will – but born of God.

And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory – the favor and position a parent gives an only child – filled with grace, filled with truth.

MESSAGE

Shining in the Shadows: A Difficult Invitation

Pastor Alexis Lillie

Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

INVITATION

*For the Flowers Are Great Blessings
from Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 40 by Benjamin Britten
Lyrics adapted by Abigail Lumdsen*

For your soul gives great blessings.
For your soul gives great blessings.
For your soul's like an angel on one long road through more dimensions.
For your soul glorifies Love.
And your eyes laugh with the adversary.
For you dwell inside all our hearts.
For you are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

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

What child is this in every land who cries when food is lacking,
Whose parents mourn their newly born, whom sickness is attacking?

*When will injustice cease, when will the nations live at peace?
When all have learned from him, the babe, the son of Mary.*

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come Away

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world, the Christ is come;
let earth its praises ring;
let ev'ry heart prepare and offer room,
as heav'n and nature sing, as heav'n and nature sing,
as heav'n, as heav'n and nature sing.

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!
Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let fear and borders fall!
As strangers become friends and join in one accord
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!
No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
God's love has come to stay to show and make a way
'till all have been made One, 'till all have been made One.
'till all, 'till all have been made One.
Joy!

To join conversation with Pastor Alexis Lillie
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 Virginia Riker or Sam Winfrey in the Narthex.

You can connect online with Monica Quintero
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, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

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

Worship Leader: Katie Braden

Call to Offering: Louis Echevarria

Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs

Prayers of the People:

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Abigail Lumdsen, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Suzie Wilder

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Abigail Lumdsen

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Usher: Maurice White

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

iStock Image #881531794, by Eglelip, Used by Permission

What Child Is This

W: Verses 1-2, William C. Dix; Verse 3: John Becker; Verse 4: Rae E. Whitney

M: GREENSLEVES

The Song of the Angels

W: Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

M: French carol melody

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For the Flowers Are Great Blessings

from *Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 40*

W: Christopher Smart (adapted by Abigail Lumdsen)

M: Benjamin Britten

Joy to the World

W: Isaac Watts (alt.)

M: Lowell Mason (Arr. from G.F. Handel)

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

The Church of the Village is a progressive and radically inclusive community that is committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression. The foundation for all of our theology and practice is Jesus’ instruction to “love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.”

We seek to build a world overflowing with justice, mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our church building stands on ancestral lands of the Lenape people. The colonizers who stripped indigenous peoples of their lands used Christianity to justify their actions. We are beneficiaries of a history of appropriation, slavery, and forced migration. We repent and commit to being a community that seeks to repair the harm done to indigenous peoples and build new pathways to love and justice.

We celebrate human diversity – welcoming people of every color, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. We strongly support environmental justice and stewardship of the Earth. We believe many roads lead to God and are respectful of a diversity of spiritual paths. We believe our community flourishes with many points of view, opportunities for creative expression, and participatory worship.

To learn more about The Church of the Village, please complete our [Virtual Welcome Card](#).

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

Please follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage)), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our YouTube channel for videos of music, worship, Finding Center, and more.

You can also learn more on our website at churchofthevillage.org.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

January 2 – Sunday	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care
January 4 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP CLOSED: Food Pantry
January 5 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
January 6 – Thursday	8:15pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
January 7 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
January 8 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP CLOSED: Community Meal
January 9 – 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>

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF OURS: HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

A New Worship Series

Sundays, January 2 – February 20, 2022



“The trouble with stars that beckon us to follow them is that we can never know at the onset of our journey where their light will lead.” – The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde

Epiphany (from Greek *epiphainein*, meaning "reveal") is the name the Christian Church gives to the day when the Magi (wise persons), led by a star, visited the infant Jesus. The season following that is a celebration of the Light that has come into the world.

The light of Epiphany (and beyond) does not illuminate everything all at once. It does not give us all the answers. It does not guarantee the solution of all our problems. It doesn't provide a certain pathway. Rather, it shows us the next step.

This light, the light of Christ, lies deep within each one of us. The Season after Epiphany invites us to uncover and rediscover this light. This is not always easy, since the Christ light often reveals difficult truths and calls us to seemingly impossible dreams.

Join us on Sundays @ 10:30 am EST onsite or online as we dare to see what happens when we allow the light to shine, together.

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 LGBTQA+ 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.

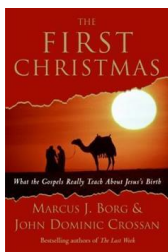
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our current 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. **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 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 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 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.

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](#).



**Church
of the Village**

A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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

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Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

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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