



**the  
Church  
of  
the Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470  
[www.churchofthevillage.org](http://www.churchofthevillage.org) • [facebook.com/churchofthevillage](https://facebook.com/churchofthevillage)  
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**January 14, 2024 • Second Sunday after the Epiphany •  
*Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday***

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



***Listening For Grace***

## WE GATHER

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

*Over My Head*

**Over my head  
I hear music in the air (3x)  
There must be a God somewhere**

**I see justice...**

**I see changes...**

### WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

## WE PROCLAIM

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51 (*The Inclusive Bible*)**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Now young Samuel was in the service of YHWH under Eli.

In those days, the voice of YHWH was rarely heard—  
prophecy was uncommon.

One night Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see,  
was sleeping in his bed.

The lamp of God had not gone out,  
and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.  
Then YHWH called to Samuel.

Samuel answered, “Here I am!” 5 and ran to Eli saying,  
“You called. Here I am!”

Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Now go back to sleep.”  
Samuel went back to sleep.

A second time, YHWH called Samuel, and Samuel got up and went to Eli.

“Here I am!” Samuel said, “You called me.”

Eli repeated, “I did not call you. Go back to sleep.”

At that time Samuel had not yet encountered YHWH,  
and the word of YHWH had not yet been revealed to him.  
YHWH called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli,  
and said once more, "Here I am. You called me."  
Then Eli realized that YHWH was calling the boy.  
So he said to Samuel, "Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called,  
say, 'Speak, YHWH, for your servant is listening.'"  
So Samuel went back to sleep.  
And YHWH called, "Samuel! Samuel!"  
And Samuel replied, "Yes, YHWH, I am listening."

\*\*\*\*\*

A reading from the gospel as recorded by John

The next day, after Jesus had decided to leave for Galilee,  
he met Philip and said, "Follow me."  
Philip came from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter.  
Philip sought out Nathanael and said to him,  
"We've found the One that Moses spoke of in the Law,  
the One about whom the prophets wrote:  
Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph."  
"From Nazareth?" said Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"  
"Come and see," replied Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, Jesus remarked,  
"This one is a real Israelite. There is no guile in him."  
"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked Jesus.  
Jesus answered,  
"Before Philip even went to call you,  
while you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you."

"Rabbi," said Nathanael, "you're God's Own;  
you're the ruler of Israel!"  
Jesus said,  
"Do you believe just because I told you I saw you under the fig tree?  
You'll see much greater things than that."

Jesus went on to tell them,  
"The truth of the matter is, you will see heaven opened,  
and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Chosen One."

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

MESSAGE

*Listening For Grace*  
Riot Mueller  
Certified Candidate for UMC Ministry  
M.Div. - Union Theological Seminary 2023

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

*Won't You Take My Hand*

Won't you take\_ my hand; walk with me to - day?  
Walk a - cross\_ this land;\_ God will lead the way  
through the wild - er - ness to the pro - mised land.  
Won't you walk with\_ me and take my hand?\_

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn "Won't You Take My Hand". The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff contains the next two lines. The third staff contains the final line of the hymn. The fourth staff contains the first line of the hymn again, ending with a double bar line.

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me -  
We Shall Overcome - Lift Every Voice and Sing.*

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*For the Harvests of the Spirit*

Musical notation for the first line of the Grateful Response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "For the har-vests of the Spi-rit, thanks be to God." The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment.

For the har-vests of the Spi-rit, thanks be to God.

Musical notation for the second line of the Grateful Response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "For the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God." The melody continues in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing accompaniment.

For the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God.

Musical notation for the third line of the Grateful Response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that". The melody continues in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing accompaniment.

For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that

still con - found us, most of all that  
 love has found us, thanks be to God.

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### BLESSING

*God Is Building a New Way*

**God is building a new way, (3x)  
 sending love and grace our way;  
 God is building a new way.**

**We are building a new way, (3x)  
 growing wiser ev'ry day;  
 we are building a new way.**

**Holy cycles carry us, (3x)  
 bringing us into new life;  
 holy cycles carry us.**

## **WORSHIP HOSTS**

**Worship Design:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer

**Lector:** Jennifer Pinkney Pastor

**Dance Ministry:** Martha Chapman, Martine Mallary & Elizabeth Levy

**Call to Offering:** Katie Reimer

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

**Visuals Design:** Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**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

**Sound Engineer:** Caitlin Montclare

**Zoom Host:** Paul Pillitteri

## **CREDITS**

*Cover Image: iStock Image #1758912001, by Azuki2021, Used by permission*

### ***Over My Head***

W & M: African American Spiritual

### ***I Want Jesus to Walk With Me***

W & M: African American Spiritual

### ***We Shall Overcome***

W & M: African American Spiritual

### ***Lift Every Voice and Sing***

W: James Weldon Johnson

M: J. Rosamond Johnson

© 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.; renewed

### ***For the Fruits of All Creation***

(3rd. stz. For the Harvests of the Spirit)

W: Fred Pratt Green

M: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh melody

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Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***Building a New Way***

W & M: Martha Sandefer

© 1986 Martha Sandefer

## 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>January 14– Sunday</b>	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 United Methodist Women
<b>January 16 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
<b>January 17– Wednesday</b>	6:30pm 6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom Choir Rehearsal
<b>January 20 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
<b>January 21 – Sunday</b>	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet

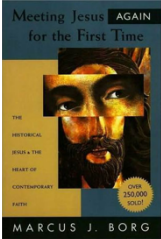




## **AGAIN AND AGAIN: The Cycle of Grace** **a new worship series**

**January 7 – February 11**

The new year invites us to ponder new ways of being – and brings into focus the ways we may repeatedly strive to grow over the course of our lives. Sometimes we seem to take two steps forward and one step back which can feel discouraging. Instead of viewing it as a disappointment or failure, what if we saw our continued efforts at growth as part of a cycle of grace, where the Divine continually beckons us to new life. This holy cycle is in operation in all aspects of our life and in all of creation. Like children learning to walk and forests renewing themselves after a fire, God’s grace meets us, again and again.



### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**Wednesdays beginning January 10th; 6:30pm**

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. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; **Meeting ID: 713 063 594 Passcode: 10011**



### **CLOTHING DRIVE**

**December- January**

For the month of December and January, we will be collecting clothing donations for several organizations where Church of the Village members work or have ties. We are seeking: - Donations of *new* socks and underwear for men in all sizes - Donations of *new* winter clothing items for men, women, and children -

Donations of *new* winter coats for men, women, and children You can bring these donations to worship on Sundays through December and January. (If you have gently used and / or additional items in all sizes, we are happy to take those donations for our community closet on an ongoing basis as well.)

### **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

### **HEALING CONVERSATIONS**

**(Every 4<sup>th</sup> 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 ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays after worship

The Alliance will meet the first Sunday of the month, starting October 1 after worship. Outings will include sharing meals together, exploring the city, museum visits, and more. Open to anyone who is young adult(ish), college age - mid-thirties. Bring a dish to share.

## 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 worshiping 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

Pastor Jeff Wells

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Pastor Alexis Lillie,

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