



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

January 15, 2023 • Second Sunday after Epiphany

**Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter
No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



***I Hit the Dray but Not the Donkey -
And the Beat Went On***

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 Renape 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

Jesu Tawa Pano / Jesus We Are Here

Jesu Tawa Pano ///
tawa pano muzita renyu

Jesus we are here ///
we are here with you

WELCOME

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Your Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet

**Your Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path //**

When I feel afraid, and think I’ve lost my way,
still you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

I will not forget your love for me and yet,
my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus by my guide, and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end.

LESSON

*Isaiah 42: 1-9 & 14-17 (adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*)*

“Here is my Servant, whom I uphold
my chosen one, in whom I delight!
I have endowed you with my Spirit
that you may bring true justice to the nations.
You do not cry out or raise your voice,
or make yourself heard in the street.
So gentle that you do not break a bruised reed,
or quench a wavering flame,
faithfully you will bring forth true justice.
You will neither waver nor be crushed

until justice is established on earth,
for the islands await your teaching!
Thus says YHWH,
who created the heavens and spread them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what it produces,
who gave life to its peoples and spirit to its
inhabitants: I, YHWH, have called you to serve the
cause of right; I have taken you by the hand, and I
watch over you. I have appointed you to be a
covenant people, a light to the nations:

to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.
I am YHWH! This is my Name!
I will not yield my glory to another god
or my praise to idols!
See how former predictions have come true.
And now I declare new things!
Before they spring forth, I tell them to you.”

“For a long time I held my peace,
restrained myself and held myself in check.
But now I groan as if giving birth,
gasping and panting!
I will lay waste the mountains and hills,

and dry up all their greenery.
I will turn the rivers into wildernesses,
drying every pool.
Those who are blind,
I will lead by a route they don't know,
and guide them by unfamiliar paths.
I will turn the darkness before them into light
and straighten out their twisting roads.
These things I will do,
and I will not abandon them.
But the rest –
those who put their trust into carved idols,
who say to carved idols, ‘You are our gods,’
they will be routed and completely put to shame!

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

I Hit the Dray but Not the Donkey - And the Beat Went On

Rev. Dr. Althea Spencer Miller
Minister-in-Residence, *Church of the Village*
Assistant Professor of New Testament, The Theological School and Graduate Division of Religion
Drew University

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

When you consider your connection to the name Jesus, what are the experiences and personal growth factors that you associate with that connection? How has it shaped you?

Christus Paradox

Jesus, you're both Lamb and Shepherd.
Jesus, you're both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
You, who are our death and our life.

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

In preparation for Communion, we encourage those online to prepare elements for participation, such as bread or cracker and juice or another beverage.

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.

(call and echo)

**Holy, holy, holy,
God of loving pow'r
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

Friends, this is the bread of life, broken and given for you and for all.
And this is the cup of salvation, poured out for you and for all.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful Spirit, **Hear our prayer.**

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 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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

When You Wonder, When You Wander

**When you wonder, when you wander,
seeking anything, ev'rything,
in the searching, in the longing,
God is holding you still.**

**In your caution, in your questions,
asking honestly, fervently,
in your wrestling, in your straining,
God is holding you still.**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

**In the changes, in surprises
when you can't let go – it's hard to shift,
In restraining and releasing
God is holding you still.**

**In the famine, in the harvest
in the call to trust, the call to risk
in the blessing, in the breaking
God is holding you still.**

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,
you can go to the area by the stairs next to the lobby/narthex at the back of the sanctuary.

If you are online, you can connect with a Minister of Care
by typing **"CARE"** in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer, Rev. Jim Norton

Worship Leader: Dwight Campbell

Dance Ministry: Jeana Musacchio

Prayers of the People: Sarah Capers

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Altar Design: Martha Chapman

Visuals Design: Katie Reimer

Vocalists: Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Jackie Stzendera, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Martha Chapman & Calvin Miller

Zoom Chat: Maya Carter

CREDITS

Cover Image:

Composite Images of Jesus, by John Squires, permission requested

Jesu tawa pano

W & M: Patrick Matsikenyiri

© 1990, 1996 General Board of Global Ministries.

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Thy Word

W: Amy Grant

M: Michael W. Smith

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Christus Paradox

W: Sylvia Dunstan

M: PICARDY

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Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.

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I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

M: African American Spiritual

When You Wonder, When You Wander

W: Stz. 1, Adam Tice; Additional stanzas Jorge Lockward

M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

Words © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 2017, Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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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.

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 15 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
January 17 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
January 18 – Wednesday	6:00pm 6:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal
January 20 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
January 21 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
January 22 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

2023 Stewardship Campaign

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.
Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together.

Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>

Questions: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org

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!*

OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. DR. ALTHEA SPENCER MILLER



Rev. Althea Spencer Miller, Ph.D. is an elder in the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a Minister in Residence at Church of the Village, NY an associate member of First Congregational Church, Montclair, NJ, and an Assistant Professor of New Testament at Drew University Theological School. Her major research interests are in Orality Studies, Africana Studies, and Biblical Hermeneutics. She serves on the steering committee for the “Islands, Islanders, and the Scriptures” of the Society of Biblical Literature. Dr. Spencer Miller also serves on the steering committees of Methodists in New Directions, and United Methodists Forward. Each of these is an advocacy group for LGBTQI+ full inclusion in the United Methodist Church. She is eager to do work that connects the academy and the church with innovative approaches to biblical interpretation. Dr. Spencer Miller’s commitment to justice and love for social transformation integrates her life. She understands Christian commitment as grounded within a community of faith that is always restless for expressions of God’s “kin-dom,” a resolute search for whole life shalom.

Her spouse is Ms. Vivianne Potter. Altogether they have two sons and two daughters.

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together. Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community. As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together. Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign> Questions: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org

A WORK IN PROGRESS

A new worship series; Sundays, January 8 – February 19, 2023



Last Fall we went “Back to Basics” and talked about some of the elements at the core of our communal spiritual journey. This Winter we’re creating space for each community member to develop their own “basics.” Each Sunday, we’ll ask questions like, “Who am I?” “What values are important to me?” “How do I live intentionally in the world?” There are no right or wrong answers! We’ll take time together to reflect on the concepts raised, as we deepen our personal and communal spiritual lives.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

After worship, Sunday, January 22, 2023

Following worship on Sunday, Jan. 22, we will gather to create care kits of toiletries and food items to have on hand for people who come to the church with these needs. If you’d like to help, please email PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org or see her after service.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Is on hiatus for two weeks. It will resume on **WEDNESDAY mornings; 9:00am beginning February 1.**

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 via Zoom conference call Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00am (**Meeting ID: 850 0514 7319 Passcode: 594909**). For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at smcapers99@gmail.com.

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET



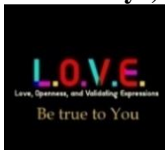
COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET.

Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212 **Passcode:** fitness

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

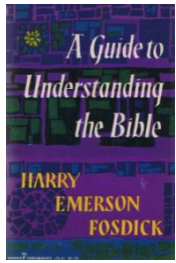
2nd Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship



Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! We will meet the second Sunday of each month after church for City Adventures — outdoor explorations around the neighborhood and times for connection. 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](#).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays; **6:30pm beginning January 18. Note the time change.**



Our current Bible Study is *A Guide to Understanding the Bible* by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Harry Emerson Fosdick presents a study of the development of Biblical ideas. We will study the ideas developed by Fosdick (Idea of God; Idea of Man; Idea of Right and Wrong; Idea of Suffering; Idea of Fellowship with God; Idea of Hospitality). This book presents a different perspective for studying scripture.

We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.**

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. 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; 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 347-497-9718 and ask for Teresa.

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, 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.

CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 PROTECTION POLICY

Updated September 23, 2022



From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Church of the Village has been diligent about protecting everyone connected to our church community. We have followed guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City and State of New York, as well as those shared by the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our leadership has stayed on top of new developments and adjusted our policies periodically to fit evolving conditions.

We recognize that for our members, supporters, visitors, and staff who are in proximity to New York City or visit our building, the status of the pandemic has shifted dramatically. The rates of infection, hospitalizations, and especially deaths have fallen to very low levels. This does not mean they cannot go back up and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, mask requirements have been lifted for most public spaces, including public transportation in NYC.

Therefore, we have decided to lift our own mask requirement for entry to our church building. This applies to staff as well as members and to groups that rent or use space in our building.

We continue to strongly recommend that everyone be vaccinated and boosted to the highest extent for which you are eligible. The most recent bivalent booster is available to anyone age 12 or older (Pfizer) or 18 and older (Moderna). The bivalent boosters protect against the original Covid-19 virus strain and provide stronger protection against Omicron, which is the most widespread and transmissible variant. To find a location and schedule your vaccination or booster anywhere in the United States, [click here](#)! This is not for your protection only, but for the well-being of our community, our city, and the country.

Also, we strongly encourage those persons at higher risk for infection or hospitalization – especially those with underlying health conditions – to continue to take all appropriate safety measures like masking and social distancing. All of us need to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance about self-isolation and testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).



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, (347) 497-9718

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Dwight Campbell, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: newdccov@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com