

A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470

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office@churchofthevillage.org

## January 22, 2023 • Third 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



Knowing God: A Work in Progress

## 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 Renape 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**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

God Comes to Us

God comes to us on winter's night, in baby's breath, by firelight, God comes to us on a star.

God comes to us amidst our fears, unspoken joys, unending tears, God comes to us, where we are.

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 mangoes 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 hijab-wearing Muslim woman 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.

#### **WELCOME**

## WE PROCLAIM

### CALL TO LISTEN

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. 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 high and lifted up shining in the light of your glory. Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy – we want to see you

To see your face in every child – everyone a part of your story. Help us to walk in your light as we sing holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy – we want to see you

### **LESSONS**

Excerpts from Psalms 10, 42, 103, 137, 146 & 150 (adapted from *The New Revised Standard Version and The Inclusive Bible*)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Why, O God! Why do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor – And yet, their ways prosper at all times; and as for their foes, they scoff at them. They think in their heart, "We shall not be moved; throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity."

Their mouths are filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under their tongues are mischief and iniquity.

They sit in ambush in the villages; in hiding places they murder the innocent.

Bless *HaShem*\*, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless *HaShem*, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits – who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle'

I say to God, my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?' As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

God sets the prisoners free; God opens the eyes of the blind. God lifts up those who are bowed down; God loves the righteous. God watches over the strangers; God upholds the orphan and the widow, but brings to ruin the way of the wicked.

Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, 'Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!'

O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; I know I'll praise God once again, my Deliverance and my God.

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

**MESSAGE** 

Knowing God: A Work in Progress

Jorge Lockward Minister of Worship Arts, *Church of the Village* 

## WE RESPOND

#### A TIME OF SHARING

How are you experiencing God in this moment of your life?

Total Praise

God, I will lift mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace, you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you
Amen.

## 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 <a href="https://www.churchofthevillage.org">https://www.churchofthevillage.org</a>
  or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link.
  Visit <a href="https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3">https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3</a>.
- 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 <a href="mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org">giving@churchofthevillage.org</a> OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

#### **OFFERTORY**

*In the Beginning, God* 

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

#### **BLESSING**

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: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer,

Rev. Jim Norton **Worship Leader:** 

Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs Prayers of the People: John Kleinig 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:

iStock #534427811, by Tanor, Used by permission

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

W: Walter C. Smith M: ST DENIO

God Comes To Us W & M: Dirk Damonte © 1994 Excelsior Music

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Vos sos el Dios de los pobres (You Are the God of the People) from the Misa Campesina Nicaragüense

W & M: Carlos Mejía Godoy

Open The Eyes of Our Hearts

W & M: Paul Baloche.

© 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

CCLI License #1125761

Total Praise

W: from Psalm 121 M: Richard Smallwood

© 1996 Bridge Building Music (BMI)/T Autumn Music (BMI), admin. Bridge Building Music

Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena

O.P.

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

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In the Beginning, God

M: Duke Ellington

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 <u>Virtual Welcome Card</u>.

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 <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u>.

Please follow us on Facebook (<u>Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage</u>), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our <u>YouTube channel</u> 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 22 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am After worship	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Care Kit creation
January 24 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
January 25 – Wednesday	6:30pm 6:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal
January 27 – Friday	9:00am 10:00am	NO Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
January 28 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
January 29 – 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: <a href="https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign">https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign</a>
Ouestions: 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: <u>Vanco</u>'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 <a href="mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org">giving@churchofthevillage.org</a>. 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: JORGE LOCKWARD**



Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Jorge Lockward currently lives in New York City, where he serves as Minister of Worship Arts at The Church of the Village.

Jorge has coordinated the worship life of many national and international gatherings including the 21st World Methodist Conference (2016), and the 2018 World Mission Conference in Arusha, Tanzania. A respected speaker and worship leader, Jorge has lectured at many Theological Schools and worship conferences. Jorge served for many years as Director of the Global Praise Program of the General Board of Global Ministries where he edited several resources on global music and worship.

He is passionate about worship that builds community across the divides of ethnicity, social class, age, gender identity, and more.

#### 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 <a href="mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org">PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</a> or see her after service.

#### 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: <a href="https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign">https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign</a>
Ouestions: 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.

#### TOGETHER IN PRAYER

#### Resumes 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 <a href="mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com">smcapers99@gmail.com</a>.

## 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)

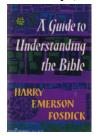
2nd Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship



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! <a href="http://zoom.us/j/713063594">http://zoom.us/j/713063594</a> 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 <u>Plentiful App</u> (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.

<u>If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry</u>. 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 <u>VANCO</u>'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. <u>VANCO</u>'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <a href="https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3">https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3</a>.

#### 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 (<a href="mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com">smcapers99@gmail.com</a>) 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 worshiping 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 <a href="https://creativecommons.com/ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons">ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons</a>. 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, <u>click here!</u> 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: <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u> 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: <u>Teresa@churchofthevillage.org</u> 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