



A progressive radically inclusive anti-racist community  
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**February 4, 2024 • Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany •  
*Celebrating Black History Month***

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



***From Fear to Freedom***

# 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

*Freedom Is Coming*

**O freedom,  
freedom is coming,  
O yes, I know.**

## 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

### **Hebrews 2:14-18** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Since the children of God are flesh and blood,  
Jesus likewise partook of that flesh and blood,  
that by dying he might render powerless  
the one who has the power of death—that is, the Devil—  
and free those whose fear of death had enslaved them all their lives.  
Surely Jesus came to help not angels  
but rather the children of Sarah and Abraham!  
Therefore, Jesus had to become like his siblings in every way,  
in order to be a merciful and faithful high priest on our behalf,  
to make atonement for the sins of the people.  
And since Jesus suffered while being tempted,  
he is able to help others who are being tempted.

### **Mark 14:32-36** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,  
“Sit here while I pray.”  
Jesus took with him Peter and James and John  
and began to be distressed and agitated.  
Jesus said to them,  
“My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, Jesus threw  
himself on the ground  
and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.  
Jesus said,  
“Abba, Father, for you all things are possible;  
remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want.”

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

## MESSAGE

***From Fear to Freedom***  
Pastor Alexis Lillie  
Minister of Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

# WE RESPOND

## A TIME OF SHARING

What ways has community (the "body" of Christ) accompanied you through pain?

### *Here Is Bread for the Hungry Heart*

Here is bread for the hun - gry heart. —

Here is drink for the thirst - y soul. —

Here is for - give - ness full and free.

Here, at this ta - ble set by love. —

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Here is bread for the hun - gry heart. —', 'Here is drink for the thirst - y soul. —', 'Here is for - give - ness full and free.', and 'Here, at this ta - ble set by love. —'. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

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 Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free*

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free.  
I wish I could break all the chains holding me.  
I wish I could say all the things that I should say—  
Say 'em loud say 'em clear for the whole round world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love that's in my heart,  
Remove all the bars that keep us apart.  
I wish you could know what it means to be me.  
Then you'd see and agree that everyone should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longin' to give.  
I wish I could live like I'm longin' to live.  
I wish I could do all the things that I can do;  
though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.

Well I wish I could be like a bird in the sky.  
How sweet it would be if I found I could fly.  
Oh, I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea  
Than I'd sing cause I know how it feels to be free

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*For the Harvests of the Spirit*

For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God;  
in the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God;  
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!

The image shows five staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4, then a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second staff continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5. The third staff has a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6. The fourth staff has a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, and a quarter note A6. The fifth staff has a quarter note B6, a quarter note C7, a quarter note D7, and a quarter note E7.

## 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, Monica Quintero, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer

**Lector/Reader:** Diane Barclay

**Communion Assistant:** John Wesley Heaton

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs & Toes Tiranoff

**Call to Offering:** Jason Brubaker

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

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

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**Organ:** Michael Johnson

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass:** Matthew Willis

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Zoom Host:** Sarah Witman

**Ministers of Care:** Sam Winfrey (onsite)

## **CREDITS**

*Cover Image: Image by [greenacre](#) from [Pixabay](#)*

### ***Freedom Is Coming***

W & M: South African Freedom Song

### ***Come, Come, Whoever You Are***

W: attr. Jalal ad-Din Rumi, 1207-1273, tr. unknown

M: Jorge Lockward

*Music © 2019 Jorge Lockward.*

*Permission granted for non-commercial use in worship.*

### ***Here is Bread***

W & M: Mary Kay Beall and John Carter

*onlicense.net A-725898*

### ***I Love the Lord***

W: Isaac Watts

M: Richard Smallwood

*Words and music © 1990 Century Oak/Richwood Music (BMI) admin. by MCS America, Inc.*

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### ***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

*Words ©1970 Hope Publishing Co.*

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### ***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>February 4 – 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>February 6 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
<b>February 7 – Wednesday</b>	6:30pm 6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom Choir Rehearsal
<b>February 10 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
<b>February 11 – Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:15pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet United Methodist Women



# 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.

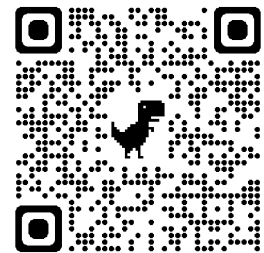
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

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



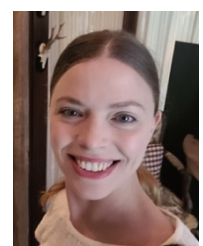
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



**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.



**GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**Wednesdays, 2/21-3/27, 6:30pm via Zoom**

During Lent, we will be offering a weekly discussion group based on the course, God After Deconstruction, created by friends of Church of the Village, Tripp Fuller and Thomas Jay Oord. Join us for a facilitated discussion led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Alexis each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30pm via Zoom. Themes include scripture, the problem of evil, faith and science, sex and gender, and others. For more details go to [www.churchofthevillage.org/groups](http://www.churchofthevillage.org/groups) or contact Pastor Alexis at [pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org). Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062849124>



**GLITTER ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**February 14, 10am-6pm**

Celebrate the beginning of Lent by receiving Blessed Glitter Ashes-on-the-go from our Pastors on the steps of COTV on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. The glitter ash is a reminder to us and to others of the solidarity between God and the LGBTQ+ community.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**February 14, 7:30**

Join us on the evening of Ash Wednesday to usher in the beginning of lent at our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30pm at Church of the Village. This day marks the beginning of a time of introspection, reflection, and turning back to our connection with the Sacred. Come celebrate with us!

**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 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

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: [PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9;  
(917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie,

Minister for Leadership & Congregational  
Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)

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(719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward,

Minister of Worship Arts

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(917) 723-0169

Dwight Campbell, Chair,

Vision & Ministry Council

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Sarah Capers,

Lay Leader

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Monica Quintero,

Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: [quinteromm@gmail.com](mailto:quinteromm@gmail.com)

Alfida Figueroa, Chair,

Worship Committee

Email: [figueroaalfida045@gmail.com](mailto:figueroaalfida045@gmail.com)