



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
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February 20, 2022 • 7th 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



The Light of Life

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Christ, Be Our Light

**Longing for joy, we are held captive.
Longing for joy, we turn to you.
Show us the way, release our spirits.
Free us to live in joy.**

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the shadows
Christ, be our light!
Shine on your people gathered today*

**Longing for peace, our hearts are troubled.
Longing for peace, many despair.
Show us the way, release our spirits.
Free us to live in peace.**

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Bambelela

**Bambelela ///
bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba,
Oh! Bamba, bambelela.**

**Never give up ///
never, never, never, never, never
Oh! Never, never give up.**

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 1:1-3 (The Inclusive Bible)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep – yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Light: Be!” and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.”
Evening came, and morning followed – the first day.

John 1:1-5 (The Inclusive Bible)

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

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Light of Life

Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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.**

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

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

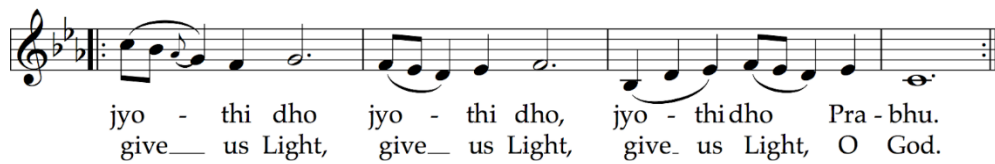
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jyothi do Prabhu (Give Us Light)

call and response

Jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu.
Give us Light, give us Light, give us Light, O God.

Jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu,
Give us Light, O God,



Jyothi dho, jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho Prabhu

Give us light, give us light, give us light, O God

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

**/// This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine ///
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**/// Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine ///
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**/// This little light of ours,
We're gonna let it shine ///
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

All around the world...

To join conversation with Pastor Jeff Wells
type the word "**PREACHER**" in capital letters into the chat.
For those on-site, please go to the Chapel of the Beloved Community,
one floor down by the stairs or elevator.

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,
you can do that in the narthex behind the sanctuary with Sam Winfrey.
If you are online, you can connect with Rhonda Wade
by typing "**CARE**" in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

Worship Leader: Dwight Campbell

Call to Offering: Sarah Capers

Dance Ministry: Aliyah Miller

Communion Leaders: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie & Sarah Capers

Prayers of the People: Lina Nilsen

Ministers of Care: TBD

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Riot Mueller, 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: Becca Love

Chat Host: Gabriel Borges

Visuals Host: Danielle Haupt

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

Shutterstock Image #287326268, by Greg Brave, Used by Permission

Longing For Joy (Christ, Be Our Light!)

W: Will Rand, Katie Reimer, Jorge Lockward

M: Bernadette Farrell

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onelicense.net A-725898

Bambelela

W & M: Xhosa - South Africa

Jyothi do Prabhu (Give Us Light)

W&M: Charles Vas

© 1990 Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music and the Christian Conference of Asia, Manila, Philippines.

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

W & M: Gary Portnoy & Judy Hart Angelo

© 1982 Addax Music Company

This Little Light of Mine

W & M: African American Spiritual

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

February 20 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
February 22 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
February 23 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
February 25 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
February 26 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
February 27 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)



Families give support, and families need support. Here at The Church of the Village, we choose to be family for one another, and we each strive to do our part. Every member of The Church of the Village family has gifts to bring.

The practice of regular giving in any amount recognizes God's abundance and strengthens our family. It builds our relationships with one another and expresses our trust in God's love. It does not matter how large or small the contribution, each donation adds to the flourishing of the family! What's important is that we do this together, with each family member doing their part as they are able. As we hear in 2 Corinthians 8:12:

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

We all work together as members and supporters of our spiritual community to foster the ministries and mission of the Church of the Village. Here are ways you can offer your gifts:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT** from your bank account to COTV. This option includes no fees for the giver or the church. You can set this up directly through your bank for one-time gifts/payments or recurring gifts/payments to COTV. For assistance with this process, please contact giving@churchofthevillage.org.
- **VANCO:** [Vanco](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want.
- **CHECK:** you can send a check payable to "The Church of the Village," and mail it to:
Church of the Village
PO Box 167
New York, NY 10113

For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email giving@churchofthevillage.org. *Please note - emails to this address should be about how we can help you set up your giving process but should NOT include any specific information about pledge amounts, gift amounts, or any other confidential information from the individual sending the message.*

Thank you for being a part of the family of The Church of the Village and supporting the work and ministry of this community!

To make your pledge to this year's campaign please visit: <https://forms.gle/ApxV5fSkVBCT3Qfz7>

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF OURS: HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Our Current Worship Series

Sundays, January 2 – February 20, 2022



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

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

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

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

WADE IN THE WATER: THE BEAUTY, MYSTERY, AND POWER OF WORSHIP

Our Next Worship Series

Sundays, February 27 – April 4, 2022



“It is not the voice but the choice, not the clarity but the charity, not the harp but the heart that makes music in the ear of God.”

– from inscription in a choir stall at the Church of St. Damien, Assisi, Italy

Candles, Prayers, Ancient Texts, Songs, Bread, Grape Juice – these are but a few of the things we engage every Sunday as we gather for worship. What is the story behind them? How do they shape our lives and the life of the world? How do we engage them in ways that speak to progressive values and lead to the realization of God's Dream? These are some of the questions we will explore in this Season.

GLITTER & ASH: ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 2; Ashes-to-go available anytime between 10am – 6pm ET

Glitter & Ash Wednesday was created to promote a progressive, queer-positive Christian witness. By receiving and wearing glitter ashes, we become part of a public witness to God's unconditional love and our radical inclusivity. Death and suffering are real. Ashes are a sign that we repent of our role in the violence that pervades our world. Glitter & Ashes remind us that we cannot despair because despair paralyzes. Glitter is a sign of our hope. Glitter signals our promise to show up, to witness, to work, and to love. Glitter never gives up, and neither do we.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday mornings; 9:30am

Our weekly prayer group includes an inspirational reading, time to support one another, and prayers for ourselves, others, and events in the world. We gather by conference call Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15am. For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at smcapers99@gmail.com.

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays; 8:30pm ET



Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information please email PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

Join Us via [Zoom](#).

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina returns Tuesdays at 10:30 am ET.

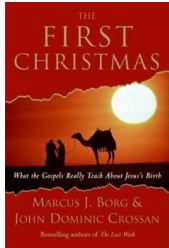
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our current study, *The First Christmas* by Marcus Bored, will focus as an in-depth examination of the Christmas stories recorded in the gospels. We will examine the similarities and differences of each story during the Advent Season. Everyone is invited to join us.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to join. Facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923;

Meeting ID: 713 063 594 Passcode: 10011

THE RED DOOR PLACE



Donations, in person, to the program can be made Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9am to 3pm. Ring the bell on the red door on 13th street or call the number posted at the door.

Food Pantry: Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30pm. No early line up permitted before 3pm.

Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.

We will continue to hand out bags of food on Saturdays beginning around 11:30am. Guests may arrive earlier to get a place in line; we have chalk marks on the sidewalk at 6-foot intervals to indicate where people should stand at a safe distance.

THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!

The huge increase in unemployment and homelessness means that The Red Door Place has gone from providing food for 1,700 persons before the pandemic, to 2,500 in April, to now more than *4,000 persons every week*. TRDP has plenty of volunteers. **What we need is money.** We are desperately trying to keep enough food coming in to give out to every guest. TRDP is one of only a few emergency food programs in Manhattan still giving out a significant amount of food to each guest at the pantry on Tuesdays and still offering a hot meal on Saturdays.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, ask your employer, your family, your friends to GIVE! Put out an appeal on your Facebook page. Email people you think would be able to donate.

TO MAKE A DONATION, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God. If you would like to pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

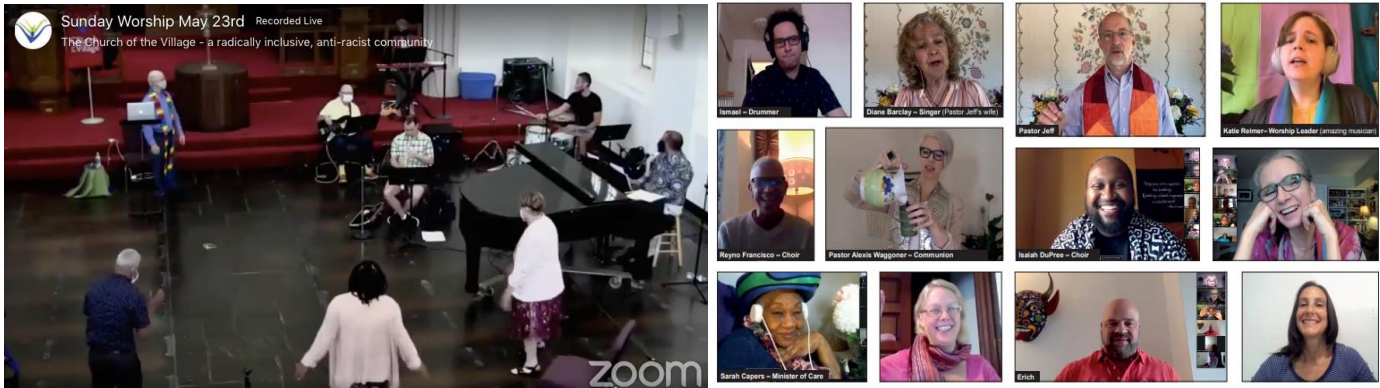
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshipping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at [Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos](https://www.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](https://www.ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons). We encourage you to read and share them with others.

OUR ADVENTURE IN ONLINE-ONSITE COMMUNITY



The Church of the Village never “closed” during the Covid-19 pandemic because we shifted our entire ministry to be online in March 2020. Then, as the world began slowly to emerge in the summer of 2021 from the worst of the pandemic, there was no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic.

Our reality and our reach have changed dramatically in a year. We continue to attract worshippers and receive new members from across the U.S. and beyond its borders, as well as from the New York City area. As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. We opened to all of our vaccinated members in September 2021 and have expanded vision and our capacities since then to become a fully online and onsite community. We are actively evaluating when to open fully to the vaccinated public.

People are attracted to the Church of the Village because of our progressive theology, radical inclusivity, extravagant welcome, and focus on social, economic, and climate justice. Many who worship with us or decide to join cannot find this sort of faith community where they live.

We believe it is God’s desire that each of us have the chance to have as full a life as possible by seeking the common good in healthy community together. We are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this dream becoming reality, we can re-imagine John Wesley’s vision and say that the whole world, literally, can be our parish.

We encourage you to participate in as many online and onsite opportunities in the Church of the Village community as possible. Consider how you can contribute to the thriving of our lives together. If you want more information on how to connect with Church of the Village, contact [Pastor Jeff Wells](#) or [Pastor Alexis Lillie](#).



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

During the Coronavirus outbreak and beyond, we want to make sure our members and supporters know how to reach key staff and leaders in the Church of the Village.

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org

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

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7; (917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@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: figueroarollins@gmail.com