



**the
Church
of the
Village**



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

February 26, 2023 • First Sunday in Lent

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



***Striving for Goodness and
"Missing the Mark" –
A Process-Relational Approach to Sin***

WE GATHER

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

Gathered Here

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: Ga - thered here in the my-stery of this hour. Ga - thered here in one strong bo - dy. Ga - thered here in the strug-gle and the power. Spi - rit, draw near!

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

We Sing in Praise of God's Love

**We sing in praise of God's love, who sent you to us
as a witness for justice and peace.
May God's embrace be your shield as you boldly share
who you are, what you've learned, what you bring.**

**God's blessing in your coming in,
God's blessing in your going out.
May God's love bless and increase the fruit of all
your labor, in your life, your loves, your service,
may God's love bless and increase.**

HOLY BAPTISM: A CELEBRATION OF SACRED BELONGING

In the Waters

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time. The vocal line consists of two systems. The first system has the lyrics: "In the wa-ters we are one. In the wa-ters we are one. (we are one)". The second system has the lyrics: "In the wa-ters we are one. we are one, we are one, we are one,". The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic and rhythmic foundation for the vocal line.

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL VOWS

Will you do everything in your power to help Sebastián know and feel the grace and love of God?
All: We will.

Will you show extravagant love and affirmation to this child just as he is?
All: We will.

Will you embrace the flourishing of all human beings, promote the building of beloved community, and guide Sebastián to follow the way of Jesus – living a life of love, inclusivity, and justice?
All: We will.

Will you treat Sebastián as a gift to his family, to this community, and to the world?
All: We will.

Will you nurture this child into the faithful abundant life that Jesus came to offer?
All: We will.

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be and teach Sebastián to do the same?
All: We will.

Will you embrace this child in their full humanity and treat them as a gift to their family, to this community, and to this world?

All: With God's help, we will.

CONGREGATIONAL VOWS

Do you receive this Child of God into our community?

All: Yes! With joy and delight!

Will you surround this Child with love, faith, nurture, inspiration, and challenge?

All: We will.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT

Sebastián Morant, we baptize you in the name of our Mother/Father God, of Jesus our Liberator, and of the Holy Spirit our Companion and Guide. Amen.

All: Amen.

Sebastián may the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may grow in faith, love, justice, and courage. Amen.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF SEBASTIÁN MORANT

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

You Are a Promise

You are a promise!

You are a possibility!

You are a promise with a capital "P"!

You are a great big bundle of potentiality!

For God has given you the power to choose

let love and kindness be your dress and your shoes

You are a promise to be anything God's made you to be!

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 32:1-8, 11

Happiness comes from having your rebellion taken away from having your failure completely covered.

Happiness comes from YHWH not counting your mistakes, from having nothing to hide.

As long as I kept my stubborn silence, my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.

Day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped by a summer's heat.

Finally I admitted my sin to you and stopped hiding my guilt. I said, “I confess my rebellion, YHWH,” and you took away the guilt of my sin. That’s why people of faith everywhere should pray to you – they’ll find you. Even when the flood begins rising, it will never touch them.

You are my hiding place; you’ll protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of freedom.

“I’ll teach you and show you the way you should walk; I will counsel you and keep watch over you.

Be glad in YHWH and rejoice, you who love justice! Exult, you upright of heart!

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

*Striving for Goodness and “Missing the Mark”
– A Process-Relational Approach to Sin*

Rev. Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

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

The bread which we break together, is a sharing in the body of Christ;
the beloved community that we call “church.”
And this cup, over which we give thanks, is a sharing in the life of Christ.

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

Just as I am

Just as I am, without one plea but that you gave your life for me,
and that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

I'm Gonna Live So

**I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere and anytime (2x)**

I'm gonna pray...

I'm gonna love...

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: Reyno Francisco

Dance Ministry: Elizabeth Levy, Shelagh Kreuger, Aliyah Miller

Call to Offering: Sarah Witman

Altar Design: Martha Chapman

Visuals Design: Katie Reimer

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

Clarinet & Flute: Peter Brainin

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: Monica Quintero (onsite) & Rhonda Wade (online)

Zoom Host: Calvin Miller

Zoom Chat: Sarah Witman

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #1322104312, by RomoloTavani,
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Gathered Here

W & M: Philip Porter

© Philip Porter

We Sing In Praise of God's Love

W: adapted by Jorge A. Lockward

M: Nilcéia Protázio

Music © Nilcéia Protázio

(nilceiaprotasio@gmail.com)

In the Waters

Words: Jorge Lockward

Music: Nehemiah Lockett

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I Am A Promise

W & M: Gloria Gaither & William J. Gaither, Inc.

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Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

W: Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

M: Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

Just As I Am

W: Charlotte Elliott (alt.)

M: CAROLINE Sally Ann Morris

Music © 2016 GIA Publications, Inc.

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I'm Gonna Live So

W & M: African American Spiritual

© 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.

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 26 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
February 28 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
March 1 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal
March 4 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
March 5 – 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!*

ROOTS (LENT 2023)



We are all born with a longing for connection and belonging. We can only blossom and flourish, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually, when we make conscious efforts to be curious about each other. This small group will foster deeper roots in our community by bringing people together to learn each other's names, life stories, histories, traditions, emotions, personalities, struggles and dreams. Those who engage with this group are asked to make a commitment for six weeks.

This group begins March 2, after which this group will be closed. For more information, contact Pastor Alexis and Alfida Figueroa. Register today at <https://forms.gle/A9NELraegkeqWdFN7>.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Wednesday mornings; 9:00am

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



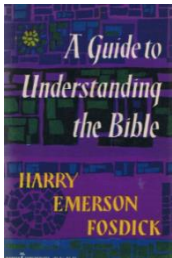
COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET.

Join us via [Zoom!](#)

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



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 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 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: DCampbell5938@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scapel31@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com