



**the  
Church  
of  
the Village**



A progressive radically inclusive anti-racist community

201 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street New York NY, 10011 • (212) 2435470  
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office@churchofthevillage.org

**March 10, 2024 • Fourth Sunday in Lent  
*Celebrating Women's History Month***

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



***Seeing Wilderness  
Through Other's Eyes***

## 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 Lenape 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.”*

## WELCOME

## SHARING GOD’S PEACE

*Child of God*

**No matter what people say, say or think about you,  
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**No matter what you may say, say or think about you,  
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**And there is no thing or no one who can separate,  
they can’t separate you from the truth that you’re someone,  
You are family, you are meant to be, a Child, a Child of God!**

## CENTERING PRAYER

*In the Heart of God*

**We are here in the heart of God,  
God is here in the heart of me.  
Like the rain in our bodies and our bodies in the rain  
We are here in the heart of God.**

**You are here in the heart of God...**

**I am here in the heart of God...**

# WE PROCLAIM

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **Acts 2:38-39, 41-47** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Preaching to a large crowd, the apostle Peter declared,

“You must repent and be baptized, each one of you,  
in the name of Jesus the Messiah, that your sins may be forgiven;  
then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
It was to you and your children that the promise was made,  
and to all those still far off whom our God calls.”

They accepted what he said and were baptized.

That very day about three thousand were added to the number of those converted.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
A reverence overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles.

Those who believed lived together and shared all things in common.

They would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need.

They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people.  
Day by day, God added to their number.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-14, 20-27** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit.

There is a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One.

There is a variety of outcomes, but the same God is working in all of them. To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The body is one, even though it has many parts;  
all the parts—many though they are—comprise a single body.  
And so it is with Christ.

It was by one Spirit that all of us,  
whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens,  
were baptized into one body.

All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.  
And that Body is not one part; it is many.

They are, indeed, many different members but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,”  
any more than the head can say to the feet, “I do not need you.”

And even those members of the body which, to some,  
seem less important are in fact indispensable.

We honor the members some people see as marginal  
by clothing them with great care and love,  
thus bestowing on them a place of honor usually reserved for the privileged.

God has so constructed the body as to give great honor to the marginalized members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another.

If one member suffers, all the members suffer with them;  
if one member is honored, all the members share their joy.  
You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.

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

## MESSAGE

### *Seeing Wilderness Through Other's Eyes*

Pastor Jeff Wells  
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

## WE RESPOND

### A TIME OF SHARING

Imagine seeing wilderness (real or metaphorical) through the eyes of another human, or your beloved pet, or a houseplant, bird, tree, etc.

Whose eyes and perspective are you imagining?  
How does it affect what you see?

### A TIME OF PRAYER



Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na sa - lam.  
God of peace come a-mong us, rain down your peace in the world.  
Dios de paz y jus - ti - cia, de - rra - ma siem - pre tu paz.



Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im la' qu - lu - ba - na sa - lam.  
God of peace come a-mong us, fill ev - ry heart with your peace.  
Dios de paz y jus - ti - cia, a ca - da co - ra - zón trae paz.

يارب السلام أمطر علينا السلام يارب السلام املأ قلوبنا سلام

Yarabba ssalami amter alayna salam,  
yarabba ssalami im la qulubana salam.

God of peace come among us, rain down your peace in the world.  
God of peace come among us, fill ev'ry heart with your peace.

Dios de paz y justicia, derrama siempre tu paz.  
Dios de paz y justicia, a cada corazón trae paz.

**God, When I am famished,  
Give me someone who needs food;**

**When I am thirsty,  
Send me someone who needs water;**

**When I am cold,  
Send me someone to warm;**

**When I am hurting,  
Send me someone to console;**

**When I am poor,  
Lead someone needy to me;**

**When I have no time,  
Give me someone to help for a moment;**

**When I am criticized,  
Give me someone to praise;**

**When I am discouraged,  
Send me someone to encourage;**

**When I need another's understanding,  
Give me someone who needs mine;**

**When I need somebody to take care of me,  
Send me someone to care for;**

**When I think too much of myself,  
Turn my thoughts toward someone else.**

**Amen.**

*Anonymous, twentieth century, Japan  
Adapted from the translation of Mary-Theresa McCarthy*

# WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

## INVITATION & RELEASE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Call and response*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. God of lov - ing pow'r.



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.

*repeat ad lib*



Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Cantor only*



Ho - san - na in the high - - - est.

## 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

*\*Somos el cuerpo de Cristo / We are the body of Christ*

**Somos el cuerpo de Cristo,  
we are the body of Christ,  
somos el cuerpo de Cristo,  
we are the body, the body of Christ.**

Dios viene al mundo a través de nosotros.  
**Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.**  
God is revealed when we love one another.  
**We are the body of Christ,**  
Al mundo a cumplir la misión de la iglesia;  
**Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.**  
bringing the light of God's mercy to others.  
**We are the body of Christ.**

Cada persona es parte del reino;  
**Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.**  
putting a stop to all discrimination.  
**We are the body of Christ.**  
Todas la razas que habitan la tierra,  
**Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.**  
All are invited to feast in the banquet.  
**We are the body of Christ.**

English translation of stanzas:

God comes into the world through us. God is revealed when we love one another.  
We go into the world to fulfill the Church's Mission; bringing the light of God's mercy to others.

Every person is a part of the kin-dom, putting a stop to all discrimination.  
All the peoples that inhabit the earth; all are invited to feast in the banquet.

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

### *Take These Gifts*

Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts. Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts.  
Take my hands, oh, take my hands. Take my hands, oh, take my hands.  
Bless this world, oh, bless this world. Bless this world, oh, bless this world.

Let them be to-kens of your love. Take these gifts, O God.  
Let them bless; let them o - pen wide. take my hands, O God.  
may it heal, may it be made whole, bless this world, O God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take These Gifts'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### *Walk With Jesus*

**Walk with Jesus, the journey is long (4x)  
The journey, the journey, the journey is long (4x)**

**Walk together, the journey is long...**



## WORSHIP HOSTS

**Worship Design:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Dwight Campbell, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer

**Lector/Reader:** Diane Barclay

**Communion Assistant:** Alfida Figueroa

**Dance Ministry:** Martine Mallary

**Call to Offering:** Jim Norton

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

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

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

**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:** TBD (onsite); Monica Quintero (online)

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** iStock Image #483503076, by Rebecca\_Denton, Used by permission

### ***Give Me Someone***

Ford-Grabowsky, Mary. *WomanPrayers: Prayers by Women from Throughout History and Around the World* (pp. 114-115). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

### ***Child of God***

W & M: Mark A. Miller  
© 2014 Choristers Guild  
Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***In the Heart of God***

W & M: Erin McGaughan/Chanda Rule

### ***Yarabba ssalami***

W & M: Author unknown, Palestine

### ***Unison Prayer***

Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies* (pp. 242-243). The Crown Publishing Group, Kindle edition.

### ***Red Lake Sanctus***

W: Isa. 6:3, Matt. 21:9

M: Monte Mason after melodies found in *Chippewa Music* by Frances Densmore  
© Walton Music Corp. Used by permission.

### ***Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo / We Are the Body of Christ***

W & M: Jaime Cortez  
© 1994, Jaime Cortez.  
onelicense.net A-725898

### ***Take My Hands***

W: Adam M.L. Tice. Stz. 1, Jorge Lockward  
M: Sally Ann Morris  
© 2015, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***Hamba Nathi/Walk together***

W & M: South African Freedom Song.  
Eng. adaptation COTV

## 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>March 10 – 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
<b>March 12 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
<b>March 13 – Wednesday</b>	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	God After Deconstruction Choir Rehearsal
<b>March 16 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
<b>March 17 – 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

# 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.

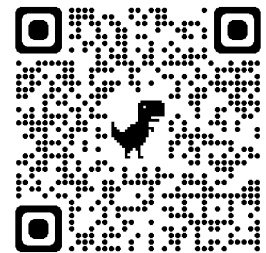
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

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



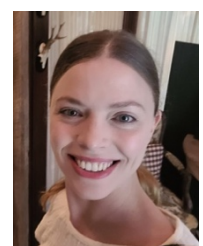
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



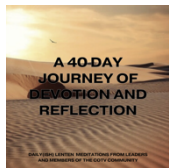
**Lessons from the Wilderness**  
**a new worship series**  
**February 18 – March 17**

Lent is a time of acknowledging our wilderness experiences. These days, there are many ways we may feel like we're wandering, whether we're carrying concern for the wars breaking out across the globe, the urgency of climate crisis, the financial uncertainty of our church community, or our own personal challenges. In this Lenten season, we join Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days, and are also reminded that the Hebrew people spent 40 *years* in the desert. How can we learn from these, and other, examples about how to honestly accept our time wandering, without being overwhelmed by despair and inaction? What familiar landmarks can we stop to identify so we don't feel so alone? Join us Sundays in Lent as we find opportunities to re-frame and re-imagine the wildernesses of our lives.



**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>



**A 40 DAY JOURNEY OF DEVOTION AND REFLECTION**  
**Weekdays during Lent**

During Lent we'll be offering daily(ish) devotionals and reflections from leaders and members of the COTV community, centered on wilderness. They'll offer a brief thought on how themes of wilderness have shown up in their lives, as well as an opportunity to pause and meditate, pray, or reflect further.

We hope you'll be able to engage regularly with the daily reflections, and that they are helpful in enabling you to pause in contemplation during this season. Anyone who is signed up for the COTV newsletter will receive these in their inboxes. For more information, and to see all of the reflections in one place, please visit <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/a-40-day-journey-of-devotion-and-reflection>

**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,  
Lead Pastor  
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  
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(719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward,  
Minister of Worship Arts  
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(917) 723-0169

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