

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

March 27, 2022 • Fourth Sunday in Lent

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



Praise: Conspiracy Theory and Practice

WE GATHER

"The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called "Lenapehoking." The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, "as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine."

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF MARCH BIRTHDAYS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

When God's People

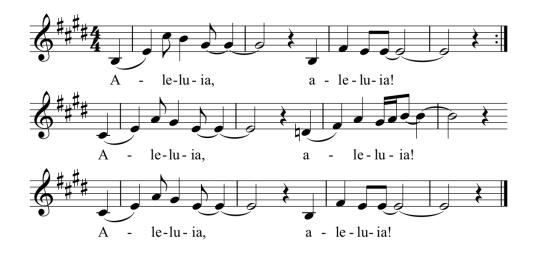
When God's people lift their song and from their hearts sing praise to God, suceden cosas, suceden cosas maravillosas*. (2x)

All hearts are healed, all fears released, we feel God's holy presence as we sing. (2x)

*suceden cosas maravillosas= amazing things happen

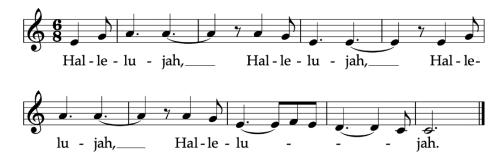
CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Psalm 30 (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)



I praise you, O God, because you raised me up and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

I cried to you for help, O God, my God, and you healed me. You brought me back from the realm of the dead, you spared me from going down into the Pit.



Sing to God, all you who love God!

Praise God's holy name! God's anger is fleeting, but God's favor endures forever.

There may be tears during the night, but joy comes in the morning.



When I presumed I was secure, I boasted, "I will never be defeated!" When I stood in your favor, O God, I stood as firm as a mountain.

But then you hid yourself from me, and I was filled with terror.

So I called to you, my God, I pleaded for your help saying:

"What goodwill could come from my destruction, from my going to the grave?

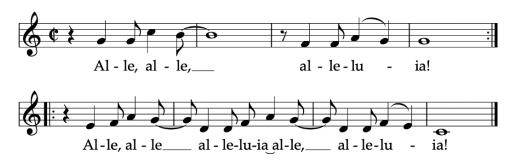
Can dust praise you? Can the dead proclaim your unfailing goodness?

Hear me, O God, and be merciful! Help me, God of my salvation!"



Then you changed my despair into a dance – you stripped me of my death shroud and clothed me with joy.

That's why my heart sings to you, that's why I can't keep silent – YHWH, you are my God, and I will thank you forever!



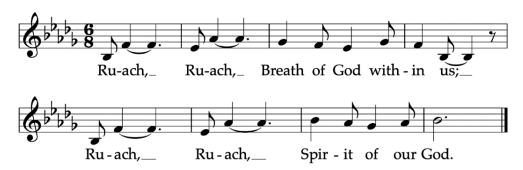
WE PROCLAIM

MESSAGE

Praise: Conspiracy Theory and Practice

Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins Hannah Professor of Worship, Preaching, and the Arts, Emerita Guest Preacher

John 20:19-22 (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)



In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
Having said this, the Savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.

A TIME OF HEALING

Open My Heart



Thank You For This Day

Thank you for this day, God, thank you for this day
Thank you for this day, O God, thank you for this day
This healing, this healing, this healing day
This healing, this healing, this healing day

Silence

Intercessions

Come, bring your burdens to God /// bring all that's within you to God



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
- 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

My Tribute

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 so God can use me, anywhere and anytime (2x)

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

Stay online after service for five-minute breakout rooms.

Afterwards, you may continue fellowship in the main Zoom room,
or join breakouts for a discussion with the Preacher or to speak with a Minister of Care.

To join conversation with Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins 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 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 Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Paul Vasile, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer,

Worship Leader: Riot Mueller Call to Offering: Maurice White

Dance Ministry: Elizabeth Levy, Aliyah Miller **Ministers of Care:** Virginia Riker, Sam Winfrey

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder, Natasha Wright

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga **Ushers:** Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman Chat Host: Maya Carter Visuals Host: Emilee Davis Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #479765098, by SandraKavas,

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To You O God All Creatures Sing M: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

When God's People

W: Stz. 1, Hispanic Caribbean Worship Chorus; English trans. and additional stz. 2 by Jorge Lockward.

M: Hispanic Caribbean Worship Chorus, transcribed by Jorge Lockward.

Transcription, English. trans. and additional stanzas © 2006 Jorge A. Lockward. Permission granted for non-commercial use in worship.

Alleluia

W: Liturgical text

M: Simei Monteiro (Brazil)

Hallelujah

W: Liturgical text

M: Leonard Cohen (USA)

© 1995 Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Alleluia

W: Liturgical text

M: Godleif Soumokil (Indonesia) © 1984 Yamuger. Used by permission.

Alleluia

W: Liturgical text M: Jerry Sinclair (USA) © 1972, 2000 Manna Music CCLI License #1125761

Aleluya

W: Liturgical text

M: Traditional melody, Uruguay

Ruach

W & M: Loretto Community

I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

W: Isaac Watts

M: Jorge Lockward

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Open My Heart

W & M: Ana Hernández

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Thank You for this Day

W & M: Native American Church Chorus

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

W & M: South African Worship Chorus

My Tribute

W & M: Andrae Crouch

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

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 <u>Virtual Welcome Card</u>.

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u>.

Please follow us on Facebook (<u>Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage</u>), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our YouTube channel for videos of music, worship, Finding Center, and more.

You can also learn more on our website at <u>churchofthevillage.org</u>.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

March 27 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
March 29 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
March 30 – Wednesday	6:00pm 7:45pm	Bible Study (via Zoom) Roots
March 31 – Thursday	6:30pm – 7:45pm	Choir rehearsal
April 1 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
April 2 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
April 3 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:15pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Exploring Faith MOC (via Zoom)

WE ARE FAMILY

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission Stewardship Campaign

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: <u>Vanco</u>'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want.
- CHECK: you can send a check payable to "The Church of the Village," and mail it to: Church of the Village PO Box 167 New York, NY 10113

For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email 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!

OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. DR. HEATHER MURRAY ELKINS



Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins is the Hannan Professor of Worship, Preaching, and the Arts, Emeriti, Drew Theological School. She and her husband are retired UMC clergy, living in Delaware with their son, and working with the International Lions' Club.

UMCOR: UKRAINE



United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide

direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries. Visit https://umcmission.org/umcor/ukraine/ for more information.

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

Our New 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.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday 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 CHOIR

Join us Thursdays 6:30-7:45pm onsite: 201 West 13th St, NY, NY 10011)

and online: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86979925984 as we prepare to lead worship in song on Sunday. All voices welcome!

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 <u>link</u> 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 Borg, examines the Advent and post-Advent stories all the way through Easter that are recorded in the gospels. We are looking at the similarities and differences of each story in the various Gospels. 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 <u>VANCO</u>'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. <u>VANCO</u>'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit 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 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.

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 <u>Pastor Jeff Wells</u> or <u>Pastor Alexis Lillie</u>.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u> Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

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

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: 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





