



**the
Church
of the
Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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April 7, 2023 • Holy Friday

**Celebrating Earth Month and Arab American Heritage Month
Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



LOVE

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenne-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Lenape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

We acknowledge the Lenne-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

Were You There?

Michelle Trinidad, Soloist

with members of the Sacred Heart School Mass Choir

FIRST READING

John 18:1-14

After Jesus had said all this, he left with the disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley.

There was a garden there, and Jesus and the disciples entered it.

Judas, the traitor, knew the place well, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas led the Roman cohort to the place, along with some Temple guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees.

All were armed and carried lanterns and torches.

Then Jesus, aware of everything that was going to take place, stepped forward and said to them,

“Who are you looking for?” They asked, “Are you Jesus of Nazareth?” Jesus said, “I am.”

Now Judas, the traitor, was with them. When Jesus said, “I am,” they all drew back and fell to the ground.

Again, Jesus asked them, “Who are you looking for?” They replied, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus said, “I have already told you that I am the one you want. If I am the one you’re looking for, let the others go.” This was to fulfill what he had spoken: “Of those you gave me, I have not lost a single one.”

Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s attendant, cutting off his right ear.

The name of the attendant was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup Abba God has given me?”

Then the cohort and its captain and the Temple guards seized and bound Jesus. They took him first to Annas. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Temple authorities that it was better to have one person die on behalf of the people.

MEDITATION

Pastor Alexis Lillie

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Michelle Trinidad, Soloist

SECOND READING

John 18:1-27

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, entered the high priest's courtyard with Jesus, while Peter hung back at the gate. So, the disciple known to the high priest went back and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside.

The doorkeeper said, "Aren't you one of this guy's followers?"
But Peter answered, "No, I'm not."

Now the night was cold, so the attendants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were warming themselves. Peter was with them as well, keeping warm.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teachings. Jesus answered, "I have spoken publicly to everyone; I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple area where the whole Jewish people congregates. I have said nothing in secret. So why do you question me? Ask those who have heard me. Ask them what I said to them – they know what I said." When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing by slapped him and said, "Is this how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus replied, "If I've said anything wrong, point it out; but if I'm right in what I said, why do you strike me?"
Then Annas sent him, still shackled, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing in the courtyard warming himself. Others asked Peter, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" But Peter denied it, saying, "I am not!" One of the attendants of the high priest, a relative of the attendant whose ear Peter had severed, spoke up: "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again, Peter denied it. At that moment a rooster crowed.

MEDITATION

Pastor Jeff Wells

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13

(2nd. movement, Adagio Cantabile)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Katie Reimer, Pianist

THIRD READING

John 18:28-19:16a

At daybreak, they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. The Temple authorities didn't enter the Praetorium, for they would have become ritually unclean and unable to eat the Passover seder.

So, Pilate went out to them and asked, “What charges do you bring against this person?” They responded, “We wouldn’t have brought him to you if he weren’t a criminal.” Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own Law.”

The Temple authorities replied, “We don’t have the power to put anyone to death.” This was to fulfill what Jesus had said about the way he was going to die.

So, Pilate re-entered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. “Are you the King of the Jews?” asked Pilate. Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?” Pilate replied, “Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world.”

Pilate said, “So, you’re a King?” Jesus replied, “you say I’m a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice.” “Truth? What is truth?” asked Pilate.

With that, Pilate went outside and spoke to the people. “I find no guilt in him,” he said. “But according to your custom, I always release a prisoner at the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the King of the Jews?’” They shouted, “Not him! We want Barabbas!” Barabbas was a robber.

So, Pilate ordered that Jesus be flogged. Then the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They went up to him repeatedly and said, “All hail the King of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face.

Pilate came outside once more and said to the crowd, “Look, I’ll bring him out here to make you understand that I find no guilt in him.” So, Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, and Pilate said, “Look upon the one you accuse!”

When the chief priests and the Temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate told them, “Do it yourself. I find no reason to condemn him.” The Temple authorities replied, “We have a law,” “that says he ought to die because he claimed to be the Only Begotten of God.”

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid. He went back into the Praetorium and asked Jesus, “Where do you come from?” Jesus didn’t answer. Then Pilate said to Jesus, “You refuse to speak? Bear in mind that I have the power to release you – and the power to crucify you.” “You would have no authority over me,” Jesus replied, “unless it had been given to you by God. Therefore, the person who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

Upon hearing this, Pilate attempted to set Jesus free. But the crowd shouted, “If you set him free, you’re no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who claims to be a king defies Caesar!”

Hearing these words, Pilate took Jesus outside and seated himself on the judge’s seat at the place called the Pavement – “Gabbatha,” in Hebrew. Now it was almost noon on Preparation Day for the Passover.

Pilate said to the people, “Here is your king!” They shouted, “Take him away!” “Take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate asked, “Do you want me to crucify your king?” The chief priests said, “We have no king but Caesar!” Then... Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

MEDITATION

Pastor Alexis Lillie

Calvary

Michelle Trinidad, Soloist
with members of the Sacred Heart School Mass Choir

FOURTH READING

John 19:16b-30

So, they took Jesus, carrying his own cross, to what is called the Place of the Skull – in Hebrew, “Golgotha.” There they crucified him, along with two others, one on either side of Jesus.

Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The notice, in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, was read by many people, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city.

The chief priests said to Pilate, “Don’t write ‘King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This one said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate replied, “I have written what I have written.”

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothing and divided it into four pieces, one piece for each soldier. They also took the seamless robe. The soldiers said to one another, “Let’s not tear it. We can throw dice to see who will get it.”

This happened in order to fulfill the scripture, “They divided my garments among them and, for my clothing, they cast lots.” And this is what they did.

Standing close to Jesus’ cross were his mother; his mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas; and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Here is your son.” Then he said to his disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment, the disciple took her into his household. After this, Jesus knew that now all was completed, and to fulfill scripture perfectly, he said, “I am thirsty.” There was a jar of cheap wine nearby, so they put a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick and raised it to his lips.

Jesus took the wine and said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

MEDITATION

Pastor Jeff Wells

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Miles Mitchell, Violin
Michael Johnson, Organ

BENEDICTION & CLOSING SONG

Precious Lord

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

WORSHIP HOSTS

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

Worship Leader: Jason Brubaker

Dance Ministry: Jeana Musacchio

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Musical Guests: Michelle Trinidad and members of the Sacred Heart School Mass Choir

Violin: Miles Mitchell

Organ: Michael Johnson

Piano: Jorge Lockward

CREDITS

Cover Image: Crucifixion, by Kim Young Gil, permission requested

Were You There?

W & M: African American Spiritual

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

W & M: African American Spiritual

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13

(2nd. movement, Adagio Cantabile)

M: Ludwig van Beethoven

Calvary

W & M: African American Spiritual

Precious Lord

W & M: Thomas A. Dorsey

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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

April 7 – Holy Friday	6:00pm	Holy Friday worship
April 8 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
April 9 – Easter Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

A HEART AND SPIRIT JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Please join with the Church of the Village on Good Friday to remember Love, and on Easter Sunday to gather in Possibility. On Holy Saturday, watch for an email meditation on Waiting. Let's continue to walk through this Holy Week in community, exploring new experiences together as we look with fresh eyes.

Join us
Holy Friday at 6pm ET
and Easter Sunday at 10:30am ET

Our building is open for in-person worship. Or you can join on Zoom. You can find the link on our website, Facebook page, or email newsletter.

FOR THE SAKE OF LIFE

Our New Worship Series; Sundays, April 16 – May 21, 10:30am ET



One of the blessings of community is to grow together. We do not walk through life unchanged, and being held, supported, challenged, and loved through our journeys is a crucial part of living well. In this season, we will explore the many ways we are called into abundant life. Even as we face much discouragement and despair in the world around us, there are moments the Spirit reminds us, it is good to be alive! Join us as we gather in the energy of spring to see what new life and possibilities are available to us.

COMMUNITY CLOSET

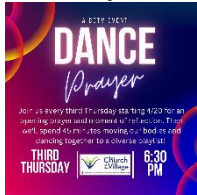
Sundays starting 4/16, Noon to 1pm.



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 for more info!

DANCE PRAYER

Thursdays starting 4/20, 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.

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE CONVERSATIONS



ANTI-RACISM - FROM INTENTION TO ACTION

Thursday, April 13, 7pm ET

Presenter: Erich Dietrich

Clinical Professor of Higher Education
and International Education, NYU



(WHITE) CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Sunday, May 21, 12:45pm ET

Presenter: John Kleinig

Emeritus Professor of Criminal Justice/Philosophy
John Jay College/Graduate Center
CUNY

Join the **Anti-racism Task Force Conversations** via Zoom: **Meeting ID: 867 6866 3955** **Passcode: 029447**

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



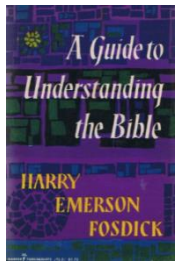
Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET

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 6:30 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 worshipping 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

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Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

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Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

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