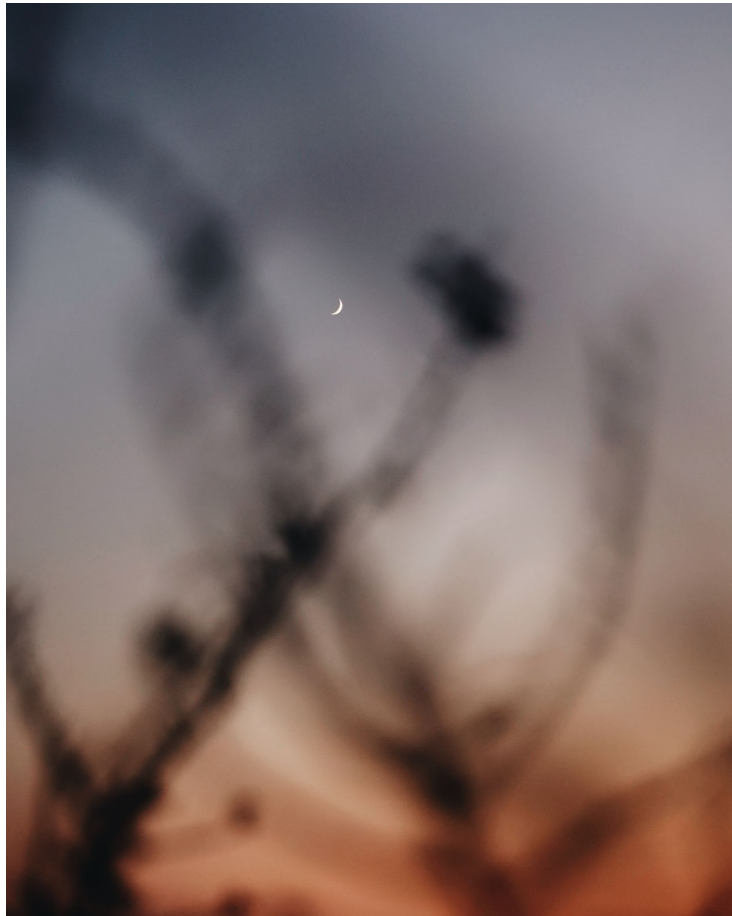




A progressive radically inclusive anti-racist community
201 West 13th Street New York NY, 10011 • (212) 2435470
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage
office@churchofthevillage.org

April 7, 2024 • Second Sunday of Easter

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



Healing Hatred in the Holy Land

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.”

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG & SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Good to Be Alive

**It’s so good to be, to be here all together
It’s so good to be, so good to be alive
Thank you, God, for this goodness.
So good to be, to be alive.**

We have been called to be an Easter people
to be a sign of what is yet to be.
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:
Thank you, God, we’re on our way!

We won’t ignore what is happening all around us
and won’t be bound by the shackles of despair.
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:
Thank you, God, we’re on our way!

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

Come, come, who - ev - er_ you_ are,_
wor-ship-per, wan-der-er,_ lov - er_ of leav - ing_
Ours is not a ca - ra - van_ of des - pair.
Though you have brok-en your vows_ a thou - sand times,
Come, come a - gain come!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 85:8-13 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

A reading from the Book of Psalm

I will listen to what you have to say, YHWH—
a voice that speaks of peace, peace
for your people and your friends
so long as they don't return to their folly.
Your salvation is near for those who revere you
and your glory will dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Fidelity will sprout from the earth
and justice will lean down from heaven.

YHWH will give us what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
Justice will march before you, YHWH,
and peace will prepare the way for your steps.

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

MESSAGE

Healing Hatred in the Holy Land

Sarah Bernstein
Director of the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

We Are in God: A Meditation

1



I am in you and you are in me and we are in God.____

2



I am in you and you are in me and we are in God.____

3



I am in you. You are in me.____ We are in God.

INVITATION & RELEASE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Le-lo Le-lo Lai-lo (3x)
Lo-le Lo-le Lo-lai.

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

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

We Will Rejoice in Love

*We will love, dare to love,
trust in love, be God's love.*

We will rejoice in love.
lift up our voice in love,
make every choice in love,
we will uphold your world in love.
We will delight in love,
share and delight in love,
'til all unite in love,
we will enfold your world in love.

We will repent in love.
raise our lament in love,
dare to dissent in love,
we will uphold your world in love.
We will persist in love,
choose to resist in love,
and coexist in love,
we will enfold your world in love.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

For One Great Peace

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the rhythm.

This thread I weave, this step I dance,
this pot I shape, this fire I light,
this check I write, this march I join,
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,
this faith I state, this truth I sign,
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,—
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,—
this is small part, in one small place,—
this flag I wave, this note I sing,
this child I raise, this earth I tend,
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Love Is Stronger

**Love is stronger,
love is so much stronger,
Love is stronger,
Love is stronger than hate.**

**Faith is stronger
Faith is so much stronger
Faith is stronger
Faith is stronger than fear**

**Life is stronger
Life is so much stronger
Life is stronger
Life is stronger than death**

Please stay for a Q&A with Sarah and John from the Rossing Center following worship

WORSHIP HOSTS

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

Lector/Reader: Alfida Figueroa

Communion Assistant: Megan Haungs

Dance Ministry: Martine Mallary

Call to Offering: Jason Brubaker

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Zoom Host: Martha Chapman

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

Ministers of Care: Virginia Riker (onsite); TBD (online)

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #1980399345, by Niko Sisios, Used by permission

Good To Be Alive

W & M: Marvin E. Swimpson

© 1987 Marvin E. Swimpson

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

W: attr. Jalal ad-Din Rumi, 1207-1273, tr. unknown

M: Jorge Lockward

Music © 2019 Jorge Lockward, permission granted for non-commercial use in worship.

We Are in God: A Meditation

W & M: Natalie Renee Perkins

© Natalie Renee Perkins

Used by permission.

Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

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

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

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We Will Rejoice in Love

W: David Bjorling.

Refrain by Amanda Powell

M: Amanda Powell

Words © 2023 David Bjorling

Music © 2023 Amanda Powell

For One Great Peace

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: Jim Strathdee

W: ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. Music © 1998 Desert Flower Music

Onelicense.net # A-725898

Love Is Stronger

W & M: Jorge A. Lockward

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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 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Q&A with Sarah Bernstein and John Munayer Community Closet
April 9 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
April 10 – Wednesday	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	God After Deconstruction Choir Rehearsal
April 13 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
April 14 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Palm 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.

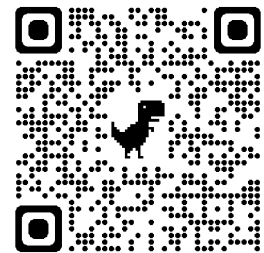
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

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.

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. *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



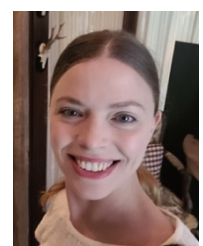
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



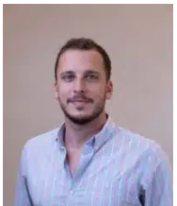
Today we are honored to have members of the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue (www.rossingcenter.org) joining us in worship. Executive Director, Sarah Bernstein, will be offering the sermon reflection. Then stay for a Q & A after worship with Sarah and her colleague John Munayer, Director of International Engagement.

The Rossing Center is an interreligious organization based in Jerusalem which promotes an inclusive society for all religious, ethnic and national groups. Through education, encounter, research and consulting, the Rossing Center promotes better relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land.



Dr. Sarah Bernstein, Executive Director

Born in the UK, with a background in law and mediation, Sarah has worked in the field of peace-building and coexistence work since 2000, specializing in interreligious dialogue. She was awarded her PHD in Peace and Reconciliation Studies by Coventry University in England for her thesis on the theme of ‘Narratives of Belonging: Life Stories of Jewish-Israeli Women in Jerusalem.’ The Israeli editor of the book, *Women of the Book: A Jerusalem Collage*, Dr. Bernstein’s article on “Is ‘Interreligious’ Synonymous with ‘Interfaith’? The Roles of Dialogue in Peacebuilding” was published as a chapter in the book, *Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Contemporary Challenges and Themes* (Pluto Press, 2012). Sarah sits on the Alliance for Peacebuilding Global Advisory Council on Effective Interreligious Peacebuilding, and is a founding Board member of the International Association of Spiritual Care. Lives in Jerusalem.



John Munayer, Director of International Engagement

Born and raised in Jerusalem, John has been involved in peace-building and dialogue initiatives from a young age. He continued to pursue relevant subjects in university, completing an MSc in International Relations of the Middle East from the University of Edinburgh, an MA in Theology and Religious Studies: Building Interreligious Relations from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and a BA in Religion, Politics and Society from King’s College London. John also researches, writes and lectures on Palestinian Christian identity, Palestinian Theology and Interreligious Dialogue.



GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, *EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 24*, 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 or contact Pastor Alexis at pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062849124>

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 for more info!

HEALING CONVERSATIONS

(Every 4th 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).

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

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.

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) 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.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

Pastor Jeff Wells,
Lead Pastor
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
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(917) 723-0169

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Becca Love,
Lay Leader
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Monica Quintero,
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Alfida Figueroa,
Chair, Worship Committee
Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com