



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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office@churchofthevillage.org

April 28, 2024 • Fifth Sunday of Easter

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



A Gospel That Moves Us

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

Amazing Grace
Michael Duane Johnson, organist

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

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip,
“Get up and go toward the south to the road
that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)

So Philip got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch,
a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,
in charge of her entire treasury.
He had come to Jerusalem to worship
and was returning home; seated in his chariot,
he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip,
“Go over to this chariot and join it.”

So Philip ran up to it and heard the eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah.
Philip asked,
“Do you understand what you are reading?”

The eunuch replied,
“How can I, unless someone guides me?”
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that the eunuch was reading was this:
“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip,
“About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this,
about himself or about someone else?”

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture
proclaimed to the eunuch the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water;
and the eunuch said,
“Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and
Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water,
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;
the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to
all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

MESSAGE

A Gospel That Moves Us
Pastor Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

How are we changed because of the boundary-breaking good news,
and how does that have an effect on the world around us in concrete ways?

What We Need Is Here

What we need is here.

The first system of the musical score for 'What We Need Is Here' consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The bass staff provides accompaniment with a whole note G3, a half note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics 'What we need is here.' are written below the treble staff.

What we need is here.

The second system of the musical score for 'What We Need Is Here' continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff melody continues with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass staff accompaniment continues with a whole note G3, a half note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics 'What we need is here.' are repeated below the treble staff.

A TIME OF HEALING

There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the woun-ed whole

The first system of the musical score for 'There Is a Balm in Gilead' consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and A4. The bass staff provides accompaniment with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and A3. The lyrics 'There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the woun-ed whole' are written below the treble staff.

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

The second system of the musical score for 'There Is a Balm in Gilead' continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff melody continues with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and A4. The bass staff accompaniment continues with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and A3. The lyrics 'There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.' are written below the treble staff.

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

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

*Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.
Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm.*

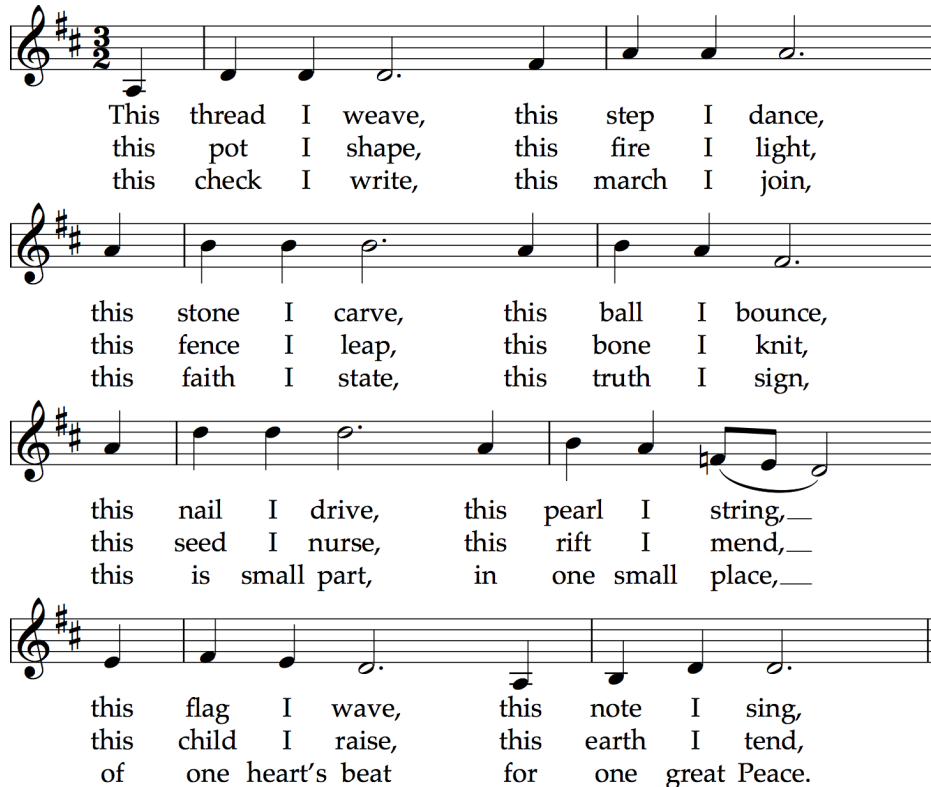
I would not be a sinner. I'll tell you the reason why.
I'm afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn't be ready to die.

I would not be a backslider. I'll tell you the reason why.
I'm afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn't be ready to die.

Has He ever made a way when you didn't have a dime?
Has He ever stepped in just right on time?
Has He ever picked you up when you were down?
Has He ever placed your feet on solid ground?

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

For One Great Peace



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**

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer
Lector/Reader: Dwight Campbell
Time of Healing Assistant: Becca Love
Dance Ministry: Maura Burns, Aliyah Miller, Aza Prem Charu
Call to Offering: TBD
Altar Design: John C. Flake & Scarlett Begonia
Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer
Organ: Michael Johnson
Keyboard: Abigail Lumdsen
Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis
Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga
Zoom Host: Sarah Witman
Sound Engineer: Maya Maldonado
Ministers of Care: TBD

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #2103630824, by AlexKalina, Used by permission

Amazing Grace

W: John Newton

M: 19th cent. USA melody

Arrangement by Michale Duane Johnson

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.

There Is a Balm in Gilead

W & M: African American Spiritual

Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

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

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Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

W & M: African American Spiritual arr. by Glenn Burleigh

arr. © 1993 GIA Publications

For One Great Peace

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: Jim Strathdee

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

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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 28 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Healing Conversations
April 30 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
May 1 – Wednesday	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	God After Deconstruction Choir Rehearsal
May 4 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
May 5 – Sunday	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.

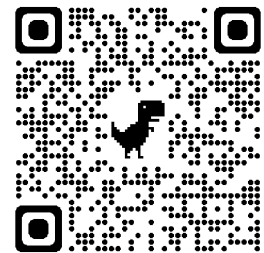
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

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.

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



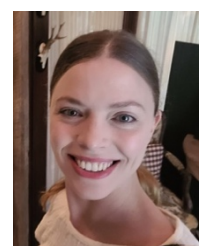
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



EASTER IS NOT THE END!

A new worship series: Sunday April 14 – Sunday May 19

Jesus is risen - now what?! The post-resurrection stories of Jesus and his followers offer glimpses into this new way of living and being to which we are called. As the early Jesus communities grew and developed, they worked to make sense of how to live as the resurrected body of Christ in the world.

Stories like Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus, or of the community sharing a breakfast on the beach offer paradigms of this life to which God calls us, and that we are still working to make manifest in the world.



GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, *EXTENDED THROUGH May 1*, 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 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://www.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

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Pastor Alexis Lillie,
Minister for Leadership & Congregational
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