



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

May 29, 2022 • Seventh Sunday of Easter

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



"Everyone's Chains Were Unshackled":
Our Prophetic Witness on the Road to Freedom

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

LOVERS, REBELS & PROPHETS

Celebrating the Ministry of Riot Mueller

CELEBRATION OF MARCH, APRIL & MAY BIRTHDAYS

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: We sing in praise of God's love, who sent you to us as a witness for justice and peace. May God's embrace be your shield as you boldly share who you are, what you've learned, what you bring God's blessing in your coming in God's blessing in your going out. May God's love bless and increase the fruit of all your labor, your life, your loves, your service— may God's love bless and increase.

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Healing, Come!

Healing, come! Healing, come!
Spirit of Peace, Spirit of Mercy, Spirit of Love

Healing, come!...

Justice, come!...

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:16-34 8:26-39 (NRSV)

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, ‘These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.’ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, ‘These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.’ The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, ‘Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.’ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They answered, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Everyone’s Chains Were Unshackled”:
Our Prophetic Witness on the Road to Freedom

Pastor Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development,
Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

Freedom Come

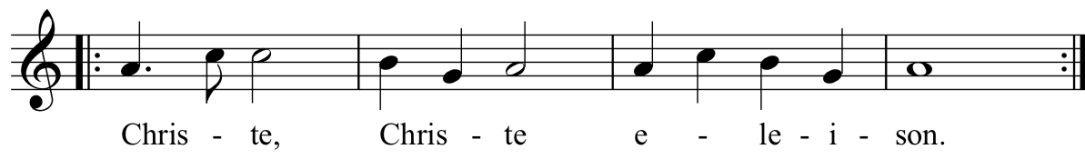
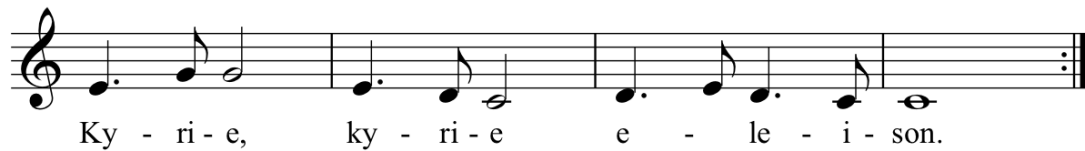
**Freedom, come! Freedom, come!
Spirit of Peace, Spirit of Mercy, Spirit of Love**

Healing, come!...

Justice, come!...

A TIME OF HEALING

Kyrie Eleison



Silence

Lesson

Psalm 23

O God, you are my shepherd – I want nothing more.

You let me lie down in green meadows; you lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul.

You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name. Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff – they give me courage.

You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies, and you anoint my head with oil – my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house,
O God, for days without end.

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

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

God Has Work for Us to Do

*God has work for us to do,
God has work for us to do,
'til God's will is done,
and all things are made new,
God has work for us,
work for us to do!*

**'Til all the jails are empty
and all the bellies filled;
'til no one hurts or steals or lies,
and no more blood is spilled:**

**By praying through our doing,
and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow
will bring God's harvest near:**

*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 Pastor Alexis Lillie
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, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: Dwight Campbell

Dance Ministry: Martine Mallary

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Ministers of Care: Monica Quintero (online) & Sarah Capers, Virginia Riker, and Sam Winfrey (on-site)

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Vocalists: Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Dwight Francisco, Karen Hackett, Michelle Morris, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder, Natasha Wright

Saxophone & Electric Bass: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Brian Woodruff

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Paul Pillitteri

Chat Host: Martha Chapman

Visuals Host: Emilee Davis

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

iStock Image #1141549703, by RomoloTavani, Used by permission

Scripture Lesson:

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition,
© 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United
States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

We Sing In Praise of God's Love

W: adapted by Jorge A. Lockward

M: Nilcéia Protázio

Music © Nilcéia Protázio (nilceiaprotasio@gmail.com)

Freedom Come

W & M: Ben Allaway

© 1993, Santa Barbara Music Publishing Text

Onelicense.net # A-725898

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free

W & M: Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas

© 1964, 1968 Duane Music Inc.

God Has Work for Us to Do

W: Carl Daw

M: Mark A. Miller

Words © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.

Music © 2012 Chorister's Guild

Onelicense.net # A-725898

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

May 29 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
May 31 – Tuesday	10:30am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
June 1 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
June 2 – Thursday	6:30pm – 7:45pm	Choir rehearsal
June 3 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
June 4 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
June 5 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:30pm 1:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) L.O.V.E. Ministers of Care Vision & Ministry Council

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:** [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!*

LOVERS, REBELS, & PROPHETS

A New Worship Series

April 24 – June 5



The Church of the Village has a rich history of loving radically, pushing against oppressive structures, and speaking the truth people need to hear. This series will explore the living history of COTV in the form of stories, reflections, sermons, and other opportunities to hear and share about where we've been. We will dive into the beliefs that have rooted and grown with us as a community, and we reflect on how the past influences the present, as we continually create new "history" to pass on.

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://umcmision.org/umcor/ukraine/> for more information.

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.

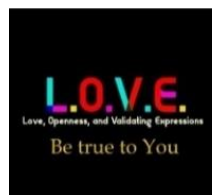
COTV CHOIR

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 Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship



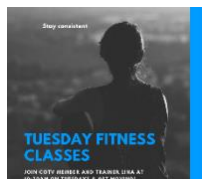
Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) We will meet on the 1st Sunday of each month (June, July, and August) after worship for in-person lunch to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

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.

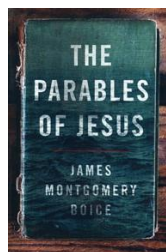
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE PARABLES OF JESUS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



A new Bible Study, *The Parables of Jesus* by James Montgomery Boice, begins Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

"Some sections of the Bible give us grand theology. Some move us to grateful responses to God. But the parables break through mere words and make us ask whether there has indeed been any real difference in our lives." - James Montgomery Boice

Boice brings Jesus' words to bear on life today. Through his careful study and clear explanation of each parable he helps us understand just what Jesus meant, and how our hearts and lives ought to respond.

This author shares the meaning that is in scripture and adds some historical facts of the culture and other background information that will help everyone understand the meaning of each parable. He also shares different viewpoints and shares the viewpoints of Bible commentators of the past. If you enjoy the parables and want to understand them better, this is the Bible Study to help you. Jesus' parables are memorable for a reason. Discover their power for yourself. We would be delighted to have you join us. *Everyone is Welcome.*

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 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 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.

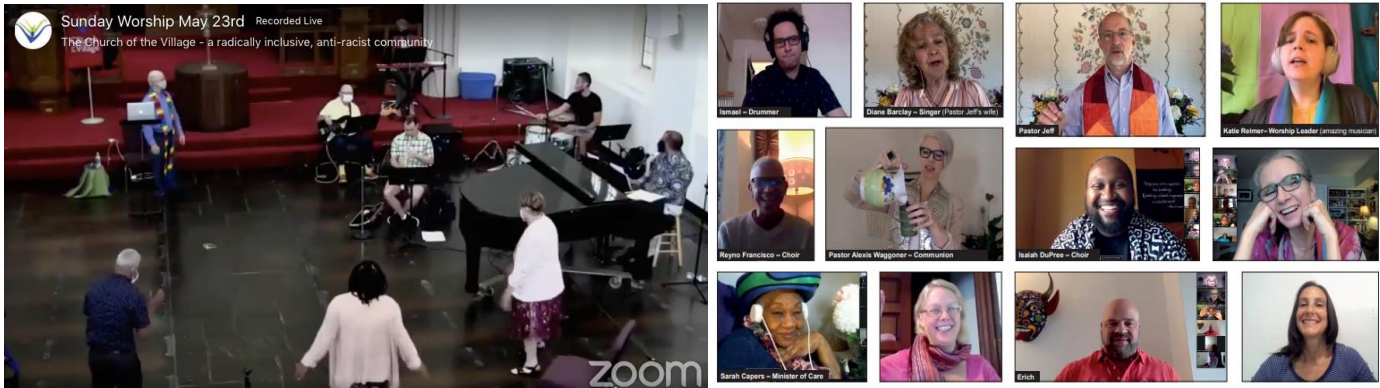
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the 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.

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 to the public in December 2021. Currently, we are still practicing masking and social distancing but not requiring proof of vaccination to enter the building.

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 [Pastor Jeff Wells](#) or [Pastor Alexis Lillie](#).



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: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

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: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com