



**the
Church
of
the Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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July 18, 2021 • 8th Sunday after Pentecost

**Remember George Floyd / Black Lives Matter
No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



PLAYING FOR KEEPS

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

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 yourvows_ a thou-sand times,



Come, come a - gain come!

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE 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've gathered here as a family of seekers
to be transformed into 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 PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Romans 12:1-5 (adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*)*

Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God – this is your Spiritual act of worship. Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is – what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members – and these members don't have the same function – so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

These are words that lead to life.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Playing for Keeps

Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins

Hannan Professor of Worship, Preaching, and the Arts, Emerita
Drew Theological School

WE RESPOND

HOLY BAPTISM: A CELEBRATION OF SACRED BELONGING

Child of God

**No matter what people say, say or think about you,
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**No matter what the world says, says or thinks about you,
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**And there is no thing or no one who can separate,
they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone,
You are family, you are meant to be, a Child, a Child of God!**

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL VOWS

One: Will you do everything in your power to help Symphony know and feel the grace and love of God?

All: We will.

One: Will you show extravagant love and affirmation to this child just as they are?

All: We will.

One: Will you embrace the flourishing of all human beings, promote the building of beloved community, and guide Symphony to follow the way of Jesus – living a life of love, inclusivity, and justice?

All: We will.

One: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be and teach Symphony to do the same?

All: We will.

One: Will you nurture this child into the faithful abundant life that Jesus came to offer?

All: We will.

One: Will you embrace this child in their full humanity and treat them as a gift to their family, to this community, and to this world?

All: With God's help, we will.

CONGREGATIONAL VOWS

One: Do you receive this Child of God into our community?

All: Yes! With joy and delight!

One: Will you surround this Child with love, faith, nurture, inspiration, and challenge?

All: We will.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Come upon these waters, Holy Spirit!

Let these waters be for us a sign of new life.

Let these waters nurture growth.

Let these waters bring hope and healing.

Let these waters be a sign of your grace and mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your kin-dom among us.

God, we give you our love and praise, now and forever. Amen!

All: Amen.

BAPTISM BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION OF SYMPHONY HINNEN-NEALS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

You Are a Promise

**You are a promise!
You are a possibility!
You are a promise with a capital "P"!
You are a great big bundle of potentiality!
And if you'll listen, you'll hear God's voice;
And God will help you to make the right choice
You are a promise to be anything God's made you to be!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

**Come, bring your burdens to God,
come, bring thanksgiving to God,
come, bring your burdens to God,
bring all that's within you to God.**

INVITATION

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.
We lift them to you, Eternal Loving One.

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Color Esperanza

I can see it clearly deep in your eyes
I see you're tired of struggling with life
with each reprise, the vicious cycle never dies.
But, I also know there's always a chance;
that life can offer new ways to dance.
God is at hand, the Spirit calls beyond your plans.

**Let's trust it can happen, allow it to happen,
release fear, replace it with hope everlasting.
Let's paint all our faces *color esperanza*
enticing the future with wide, open hearts.**

To join conversation with Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins
type the word “PREACHER” in capital letters into the chat.

If you’d like to connect to the Welcome Team,
type “WELCOME” in capital letters in the chat.

For those who want to talk or pray with a Minister of Care, you can be in a breakout Room
one-on-one with Sarah Capers by typing “CARE” in capital letters in the chat.
(Please be aware that you may have to wait a couple minutes if someone is “in line” ahead of you.)

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts

PowerPoint Design: Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: John Furman

Prayers of the People: Lina Nilsen

Dance Ministry: Maura Burns

Minister of Care: Sarah Capers

Vocalists: Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer & Rebecca Watts

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward & Rebecca Watts

Bass: Richard Garretson

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Zoom Visual Host: Danielle Haupt

Zoom Chat Host: Maya Carter

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image: *Marbles and the Table*, photograph by Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins, Used by permission.

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.

Good To Be Alive

W & M: Marvin E. Swimpson

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Child of God

W & M: Mark A. Miller

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Onelicense.net # A-725898

Color Esperanza

W & M: Cachorro López, Coti Sorokin & Diego Torres

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 – deeply rooted in Israelite and Jewish tradition – 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

July 18 – Sunday	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
July 20 – Tuesday	3:30pm – 5:30pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry
July 21 – Wednesday	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
July 23 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
July 24 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
July 25 – Sunday	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)



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!

To make your pledge to this year's campaign please visit: <https://forms.gle/ApxV5fSkVBCT3Qfz7>

OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. DR. HEATHER MURRAY ELKINS



Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins is the Hannan Professor of Worship, Preaching, and the Arts, Emerita, Drew Theological School.

She and her husband, William Wesley are living in Delaware, and working in prevention, adjudicated youth education and community outreach with their son.

VIBRANT LIVING

~ Flourishing in the Messiness of Life ~



"Life is about using the whole box of crayons." - RuPaul

What does it take to open ourselves to a vibrant life? Why do we sometimes struggle to cry out in pain, to roar with laughter, or to stay in awe? How can we resist the numbness and fear that prevents us from flourishing?

This worship series listens for the way of the Spirit, who leads us to vitality in the midst of the complications and struggles of our lives. The Spirit releases us from a limited palette into all the sparkling colors of human experience. The Spirit brings us closer to each other, closer to the Earth, and closer to ourselves. Join us as we learn to come fully alive in resonance with the Spirit. Come and experience a vibrant life through extravagant welcome, Spirit-filled worship and loving community.

Join us Online: Sundays, May 30 - July 25 at 10:30am ET / 9:30am CT / 7:30am PT

TUESDAY FITNESS CLASS

Tuesday mornings

COTV Online Fitness is on hiatus for the summer. For more information please contact COTV Member Lina.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday mornings; 9:30am

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 by conference call Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15am. For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at smcapers99@gmail.com.

DECOMPRESS AND SHARE CALL

Is on summer hiatus. We will return this fall. For more information please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

AGAPE SANGHA MEDITATION GROUP

Is on summer hiatus.

For more information about Agape Sangha Meditation please contact Joy Sanjek at joyfulwork47@gmail.com.

L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)

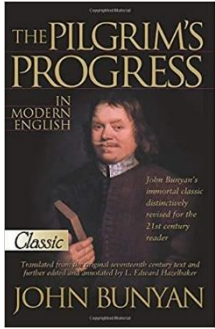
First Thursday of the month, (June – August) at 8:00pm

Our LGBTQA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! **Summer schedule:** We will meet the first Thursday of each month (June, July, August) at 8pm ET via this [link](#) 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm, beginning August 11



The Pilgrim's Progress has been called "the greatest allegory ever written, now translated into modern English and edited by L. Edward Hazelbaker. We will follow Pilgrim as he makes a journey to the "Celestial City". Each week we will experience with Pilgrim the challenges and joys encountered along the way. We will compare and discuss our own Christian journeys with those of Pilgrim.

Join us via ZOOM Wednesdays at 6:30 PM ET beginning August 11, 2021.

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 (HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED)



Donations, in person, to the program can be made Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9am to 3pm. Ring the bell on the red door on 13th street or call the number posted at the door.

Food Pantry: Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30pm. No early line up permitted before 3pm.

Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.

We will continue to hand out bags of food on Saturdays beginning around 11:30am. Guests may arrive earlier to get a place in line; we have chalk marks on the sidewalk at 6-foot intervals to indicate where people should stand at a safe distance.

THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!

The huge increase in unemployment and homelessness means that The Red Door Place has gone from providing food for 1,700 persons before the pandemic, to 2,500 in April, to now more than 4,000 persons every week. TRDP has plenty of volunteers. **What we need is money.** We are desperately trying to keep enough food coming in to give out to every guest. TRDP is one of only a few emergency food programs in Manhattan still giving out a significant amount of food to each guest at the pantry on Tuesdays and still offering a hot meal on Saturdays.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, ask your employer, your family, your friends to GIVE! Put out an appeal on your Facebook page. Email people you think would be able to donate.

TO MAKE A DONATION, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app makes it easy to give when and where you want. 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-YOX3>.

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 join the Prayer Partners team, 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



On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 – for the first time since the pandemic shutdown in March 2020 – a group of leaders and artists led portions of worship from the church building in Manhattan (New York City). On April 25, a larger group gathered onsite to celebrate the Baptism of Robert Jairo Morant. On May 23, 2021, a small cohort of members of Church of the Village came to the building to participate in worship. These developments are very exciting and meaningful for those who had been away from this beloved space for more than a year. They were also meaningful for those online who have never and may not ever step foot in the building. Our hope is that by early September, we will be able to open the Sanctuary to all members and supporters who wish to attend and to the public.

As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. This is only the beginning and is part of a much bigger vision for our community.

We are not “re-opening” because the Church of the Village never closed – we only shifted our ministry to be completely online for a year. As the world slowly emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, there’s been no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic. Our reality and reach has 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. **We are on a journey and living into becoming a fully online and onsite community.**

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. So we are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this vision for online and onsite community, 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: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.10

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place (aka Hope for Our Neighbors in Need)

Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: livnyc@gmail.com

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: reimerkatie@gmail.com