



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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**August 8, 2021 • 11th Sunday after Pentecost**

Honor the Earth / Remember George Floyd / Black Lives Matter  
No Human Being Is “Illegal” / No Muslim Ban Ever  
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



***What Do I Love  
When I Love My God?***

***Theology as Critique; Theology as Prayerful Imagination***

## WE GATHER

### PRELUDE

### CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

*God, Beyond All Names*

God, beyond our dreams, you have stirred in us a memory,  
You have placed your powerful spirit in the hearts of humankind.

*All around us, we have known you;  
All creation lives to hold you,  
// In our living and our dying  
We are bringing you to birth. //*

God, beyond all words, all creation tells your story,  
you have shaken with our laughter, you have trembled with our tears.

God, beyond all time, you are laboring within us;  
we are moving, we are changing, in your spirit ever new.

God of tender care, you have cradled us in goodness,  
you have mothered us in wholeness, you have loved us into birth.

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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!**

## WE PROCLAIM

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

*John 17:20-24 14:18-21 (adapted from the New Revised Standard Version)*

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,  
that they may all be one. As you, Abba, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,  
so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Abba, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

The Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

**"What Do I Love When I Love My God?"**  
*Theology as Critique; Theology as Prayerful Imagination*

**Dr. John Thatamanil**  
Associate Professor of Theology and World Religions,  
Union Theological Seminary

## WE RESPOND

### WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

*We Are In God*

**I am in you,  
and you are in me,  
and we are in God**

## INVITATION

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts.  
**We lift them to you, Connecting Spirit.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Friends, these are gifts of God for you and for all.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is welcome, there is healing, and more graces for the good.  
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in God's love.**

## TIME OF OFFERING

## **OFFERTORY**

### *Seasons of Love*

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear  
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure? Measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee,  
in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife  
In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure a year in a life?

How about love?  
Measure in love...  
Seasons of love...

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty-five thousand journeys to plan  
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure a life of a woman or a man?

In truths that she learned or in times that she cried  
In bridges he burned or the way that she died  
It's time now to sing out though the story never ends  
Let's celebrate remember a year in a life of friends  
Remember the love...  
Seasons of love...

## **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

### **BLESSING**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

#### *Draw the Circle Wide*

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide  
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still!  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone!  
Standing side by side  
draw the circle, draw the circle wide**

To join conversation with Dr. John Thatamanil  
type the word “PREACHER” in capital letters into 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 Rhonda Wade 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, Gabriel Borges  
**PowerPoint Design:** Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

**Worship Leader:** Katie Reimer

**Holy Communion:** Pastor Alexis Lillie & Becca Love

**Prayers of the People:** Harriett Olson

**Dance Ministry:** Elizabeth Levy

**Minister of Care:** Rhonda Wade

**Vocalists:** Jorge Lockward, Suzie Wilder & 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:** Sarah Witman

**Zoom Chat Host:** Becca Love

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** *Dancing Clouds*, Photograph by Katie Reimer, Used by permission

### *God Beyond All Names*

W & M: Bernadette Farrell

Words © 1990 Bernadette Farrell

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### *We Are in God: A Meditation*

W: Hal Tausig

M: Natalie Renee Perkins

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### *Child of God*

W & M: Mark A. Miller

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### *Seasons of Love*

W & M: Jonathan Larson

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### *Draw the Circle Wide*

W: Gordon Light

M: Mark Miller

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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](mailto: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](http://churchofthevillage.org).

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>August 8 – Sunday</b>	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women (via Zoom)
<b>August 10 – Tuesday</b>	3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry Process Theology: A Basic Introduction (via Zoom)
<b>August 11 – Wednesday</b>	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>August 13 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	<b>NO</b> Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>August 14 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
<b>August 15 – Sunday</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto: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: DR. JOHN THATAMANIL



John J. Thatamanil is Associate Professor of Theology and World Religions at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. He is the author of *Circling the Elephant: A Comparative Theology of Religious Diversity* (2020) and *The Immanent Divine: God, Creation, and the Human Predicament; An East-West Conversation*. His areas of research include theologies of religious diversity, comparative theology, and philosophical theology. He is an Anglican but much else besides. Specifically, he studies Advaita Vedanta and Tibetan Buddhist traditions both academically and spiritually. He is a Past President of the North American Paul Tillich Society and the first Chair of the American Academy of Religion's Theological Education Committee.

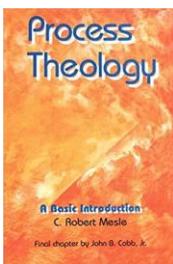
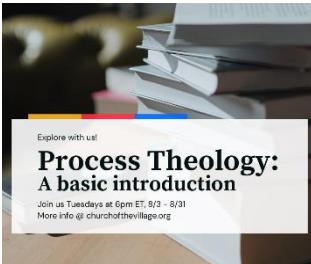
John was born in India and migrated to the US as a child when he was just shy of 9. He traces his love for Indian religious traditions to his desire to learn more about what it means to be Indian as an Indian kid growing up in the US. He is married to Kate Newman, a religious educator with a passion for listening to and learning from children and collaborating with them in reshaping Christian religious imagination. John is Dad to Moses Dryden and Kate Fulton-John.

## CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

From January through July 2021, congregational giving at COTV totaled \$77,074.10, reaching 57 percent of our congregational giving needs for all of 2021. Thanks be to God and to our faithful COTV family.

## PROCESS THEOLOGY: A Basic Introduction

Small Group - Tuesdays, 6pm ET, 8/3 – 8/31



Textbook available via [Amazon](#).

Join us via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81782257298?pwd=c3pwK1pXRXBhT2Q2UkpsQ09UYTBhQT09>

## GOD: A JOURNEY OF BECOMING

A New Worship Series



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All of us have been given visions and definitions of who God is and how God works - even if you don't believe in god, you have an idea of what you don't believe in. In many ways, the "god question" is always before us.

Some ways of understanding God prove helpful in certain periods of our lives, and less helpful in others. Some conceptualizations of God are just plain toxic! As we grow and change, exploring this ever-evolving vision of God is integral to our journey of life.

Join us as we seek an image of the divine, that actually fits with our lived experience, that leads to life, and that resonates with scripture. Join us Online: Every Sunday in August 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**

Together in Prayer is on hiatus for the month of August.

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](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

## **DECOMPRESS AND SHARE CALL**

Is on summer hiatus. We will return this fall. For more information please contact [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto: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](mailto:joyfulwork47@gmail.com).

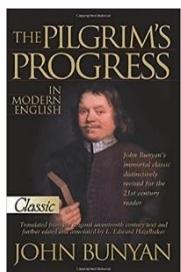
## **L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)**

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

Our LGBTQIA+ 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 (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](mailto: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 that encounters along the way. We will compare and discuss our own Christian journeys with those of Pilgrim’s.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join. 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. 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 join the Prayer Partners team, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers ([smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](http://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](https://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](http://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 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.

**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](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: [Office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto: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](mailto:Teresa@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: [marthachapman62@gmail.com](mailto:marthachapman62@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: [scape131@aol.com](mailto:scape131@aol.com)

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: [livnnyc@gmail.com](mailto:livnnyc@gmail.com)

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: [reimerkatie@gmail.com](mailto:reimerkatie@gmail.com)