

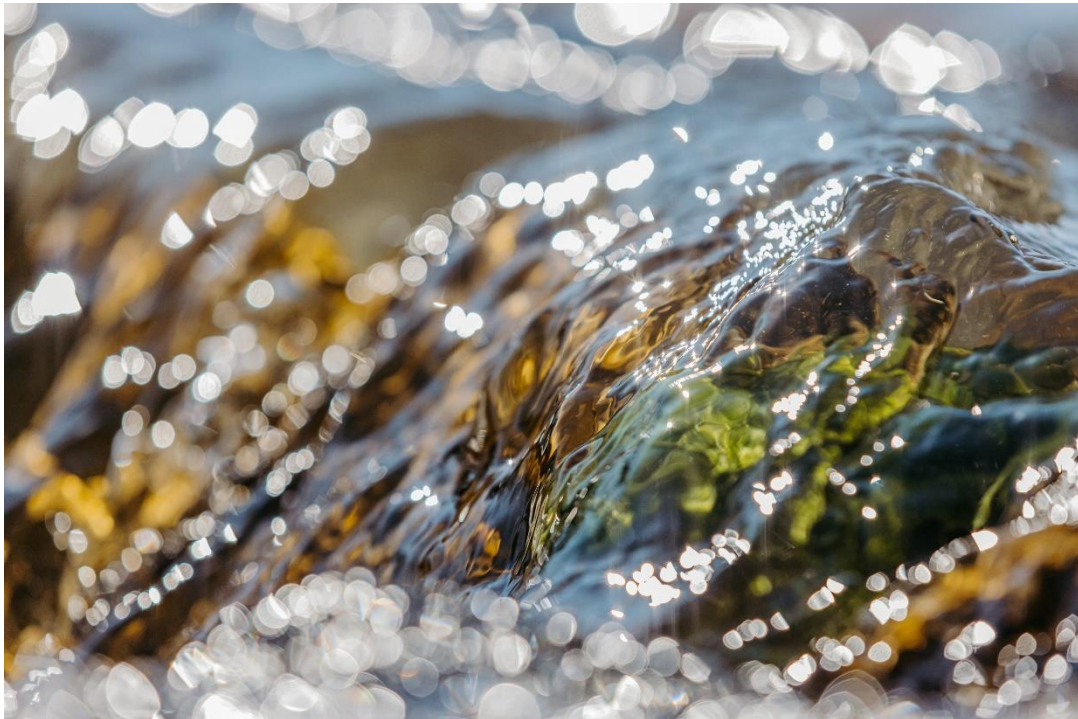


A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage
office@churchofthevillage.org

August 20, 2023 • Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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



**Spirit Journeys:
In the Flow of Creation**

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.”

GATHERING SONG

“There is a river that runs through time and the universe,
vast and inexplicable, a flow of spirit that is at the heart of all existence,
and every molecule of our being is a part of it.
And what is God but the whole of that river?”

– William Kent Krueger, “This Tender Land”

There Is A River

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to Bb. The lyrics are: "There is a ri - ver, a ho-ly breath, a spark of life that all cre-a - tion shares." The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "With-in that ri - ver, held by that breath, touched by that life we ga-ther here to-day." The third staff features a more complex rhythmic pattern with some rests and lyrics: "The ri - ver flows, God's breath en - dures in". The fourth staff concludes the piece with lyrics: "life that al - ways was, in life that al - ways is, be - co-ming that will ne - ver cease." The score ends with a double bar line.

There is a ri - ver, a ho-ly breath, a spark of life that all cre-a - tion shares.

With-in that ri - ver, held by that breath, touched by that life we ga-ther here to-day.

The ri - ver flows, God's breath en - dures in

life that al - ways was, in life that al - ways is, be - co-ming that will ne - ver cease.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

WE PROCLAIM
CALL TO LISTEN

Wade in the Water

**Wade in the water
Wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 22:1-5 (The Inclusive Bible)

The angel then showed me the river of life-giving water, clear as crystal, which issued from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and flowed down the middle of the streets.

On either side of the river grew the trees of life which produce fruit twelve times a year, once each month; their leaves serve as medicine to heal the nations.

There will no longer be any curse. The throne of the Almighty and of the Lamb will be there, and God's subjects will serve faithfully. They will see the Most High face to face, and bear God's name on their foreheads. Night will be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for our God will give them light, and they will reign forever.

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Spirit Journeys: In the Flow of Creation

Rev. Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development
Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

We Are in God: A Meditation

1



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

2



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

3



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

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!
All: Our hearts are lifted!

One: Let us give thanks to God!
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(call and echo)

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

Holy, holy, holy,
God of loving pow'r.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.
Hosanna in the highest!

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

A TIME OF OFFERING

4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- The Vanco giving app, using the link on our website <https://www.churchofthevillage.org> or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link.
Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.
- Setting up a direct bank transfer from your bank to COTV's bank
- Mailing a check to COTV's address: 201 West 13th St., NY, NY, 10011
- For those in the church building: Placing your gift in the offering basket in the sanctuary
For help with any of these, send an email to giving@churchofthevillage.org
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

OFFERTORY

Make Me A River

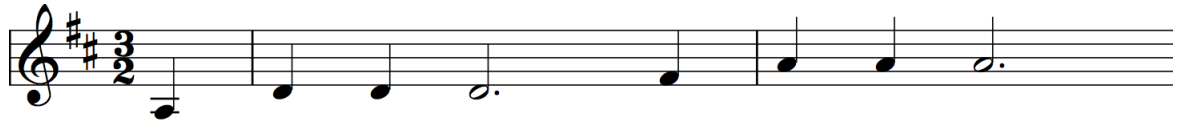
In the morning when I rise, Jesus be my eyes.
Before the day rushes in with you is where I begin.
As You sing over me with your love
I will sing praise for all you have done
Fill my heart as I hunger for you
Flood my mind with your wisdom, your mercy your truth

*Abba, make me a river
Come living water flow through me
You are the one that I thirst for
So come living water flow through me*

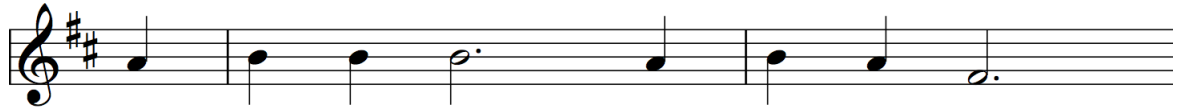
Guide every step I take, please let me not wander away
Abba fill every word I speak
with the same grace that you've given me
Touch the world with my hands, they are yours
Let my love show the world
your grace and your love.

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

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

O Healing River

O healing river, send down your waters,
send down your waters upon this land.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

This land is parching, this land is burning,
no seed is growing in the barren ground.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

We long for wholeness, we long for healing,
we long for justice, we long for peace.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

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: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer, Rev. Jim Norton

Worship Leader: Jackie Stzendera

Dance Ministry: Martine Mallary & Ted Warner

Call to Offering: Becca Love

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Katie Reimer & Bailey Roach

Vocalists: Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Jackie Stzendera, John C. Flake, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, John Wesley Heaton, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

Sax/Clarinet/Flute: Matthew Willis

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: Sam Winfrey (on-site) & Monica Quintero (online)

Zoom Host: Gabriel Borges

Zoom Chat: Calvin Miller

CREDITS

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There Is A River

W & M: Jorge Lockward

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jorgelockward@yahoo.com

Wade in the Water

W & M: African American Spiritual

We Are in God: A Meditation

W & M: Natalie Renee Perkins

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Make Me a River

W & M: Mark Hall | Matthew West

© *My Refuge Music; Highly Combustible Music; Remaining portion is unaffiliated*

CCLI #1125761

For One Great Peace

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: Jim Strathdee

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

Onelicense.net # A-725898

Healing River

W&M: Fred Hellerman & Fran Minkoff

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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

August 20 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Exploring Faith (following worship)
August 22 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
August 23 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study
August 26 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
August 27 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet

2023 Stewardship Campaign

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.
Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together.

Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>

Questions: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org

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!*

EXPLORING FAITH

Sunday, August 20, 12 PM following worship

Learn more about COTV: Our history, values, and membership commitments. Please see Pastor Alexis to attend.

MATCHING GRANT



Our Stewardship Committee and a member of our church are together offering a Matching Grant Fund! Their collective donation to our church is \$7500. Your gift can help our community gain a total donation of \$15,000! Scan the code for more info and to donate.

HOMECOMING POTLUCK

September 17, 2023 after worship in the COTV gym.

Bring a dish to share. Food signups use the QR code here.



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!

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.

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).

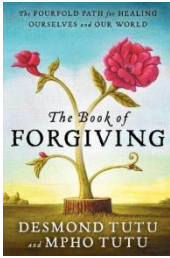
TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Wednesday 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE BOOK OF FORGIVING*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



There have been times when each and every one of us has needed to forgive. There have also been times when each and every one of us needed to be forgiven. And there will be many more times again. Out of brokenness we hurt others, and forgiveness is the journey we take towards healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again.

Join us as we study “The Fourfold Path to Healing” outlined in “The Book of Forgiving” written by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.** 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) 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, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Red Door Place empowerment ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God. If you would like to pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshiping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos.

SERMON ARCHIVE

If you missed worship or want to read the sermon again, we post many of our past Sunday sermon manuscripts and worship bulletins on our website at ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons. We encourage you to read and share them with others.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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

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Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7;
(917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción,

Executive Director, The Red Door Place

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Phone: (347) 687-5321

Dwight Campbell, Chair,

Vision & Ministry Council

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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