



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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September 12, 2021 • 16th 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



On Being Jesus's Disciple

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Jesus turned and told them, “Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters – yes, even one’s own self! – can’t be my disciple. Luke 14:25-26

By this my Abba is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:8

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

*The Tree of Life**

**There are things that we know that we don’t know we know,
Come to the tree of life (2x)**

**Come to the tree of life, come to the tree of life
There are things that we know that we don’t know we know,
Come to the tree of life**

There are things that we feel...

There are things that we pray...

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

When the Spirit in Me

**When the Spirit in me sees the Spirit in you (2x)
It’s so easy, so easy, so easy, so easy to love//**

A Sufi Prayer for Healing (adapted)

Light of all souls, Life of all beings, Healer of our hearts,
All- Connecting and All-Loving God, Forgiver of our shortcomings,
free us from all pain and suffering and make us your instruments,
that we may in turn free others from pain and suffering,
and we may impart to them your Light,
your Life, your Joy and your Peace.

Amen.

يا الهي، يا نور النفوس، يا منعم الحياة إلى العالم، يا شافي القلوب،
يا إله الحب والترابط، يا غفور
حررنا من الآلام والمعاناة و اجعلنا أسباب لرفع الآلام عن الآخرين،
و مرآة تعكس نورك، ذاتك الإلهية، بهجتك و سلامك.
امين.

* “The Tree of Life” was written by Matt Jones (1936-2011), Freedom Singer & Civil Rights leader, member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Listen

**Listen to the song of the wind (3x)
Listen, God is singing, God is singing**

Listen to the call to be free...

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of Jesus, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as Saul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul asked, "Who are you?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with Saul stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

This is the Word that calls us to life.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

On Being Jesus's Disciple

Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb Jr.

Founding Co-Director of the Center for Process Studies and Process & Faith

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

INVITATION

*Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting;
come everyone, come with gifts to share.*

God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good,
where the harvest will not be hoarded,
so that no one will lack for food.

Let's receive every gift and blessing
we receive from this generous earth
as a precious, live-giving present
we must nourish, tend and embrace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!
Our hearts are lifted!

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Healing of the Nations

**For the healing of the nations, let us pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.**

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Summons

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never by the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let me life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Guide My Feet

**Guide my feet while I run this race :|
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Stand by me...

Hold my hand...

To join conversation with Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb
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 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, Gabriel Borges

PowerPoint Design: Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: Halah Abuhusien

Holy Communion: Pastor Jeff Wells & Sarah Capers

Prayers of the People: John Kleinig

Call to Offering: Sam Winfrey

Dance Ministry: Elizabeth Levy

Minister of Care: Virginia Riker

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: Louis Echevarria

Zoom Visual Host: Danielle Haupt

Zoom Chat Host: Maya Carter

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

Image by fernando zhiminaicela from Pixabay

The Tree of Life

W & M: Matt Jones

When the Spirit in Me (The Jesus in Me)

W & M: Anonymous.

Lyric adaptation by Jorge Lockward

Vamos todos al banquete/Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

W & M: Guillermo Cuéllar. Eng. trans. B. Hesla & B.

Desheimer Pharos. 2nd stanza by J. Lockward.

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For the Healing of the Nations

W: Fred Kaan

M: Amanda Husberg

Words © 1968, Hope Publishing Co.

Music © 1996 Abingdon Press

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The Summons

W & M: John Bell

M: Traditional Scottish

© 1987 Wild Goose Resource Group, Community,

Scotland; GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.

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Guide My Feet

W & M: African American Spiritual

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

September 12 – Sunday	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) UMW (via Zoom)
September 14 – Tuesday	3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry QUESTIONS (via Zoom)
September 15 – Wednesday	6:00pm 7:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom) <small>[new time for 9/15 & 9/22]</small> BMCR/MIND Bible Study w/ Rev. Dr. Lightsey
September 16 – Thursday	8:15pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
September 17 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
September 18 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
September 19 – 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>

IN THE WAY OF JESUS: AN ADVENTURE OF IMAGINATION AND COMMITMENT

A New Worship Series



What guides and organizes your life? What are the values and dreams that fire your imagination and inspire your commitments? Join us as theologian, philosopher, and environmentalist, Dr. John Cobb, launches our new worship series. We will explore how being a disciple of Jesus can inspire, guide, and center our choices in ways that lead to the wellbeing of all creation.

September 12, 19, & 26

Dr. John Cobb

October 3

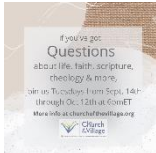
Rev. Jeff Wells

October 10

Rev. Alexis Lillie

QUESTIONS

Tuesdays, Sept. 14 – Oct 12., 6pm



If you're seeking further space to explore new ways of belief and practice, and ask big questions in a loving and supportive context, join us Tuesdays between September 14th and October 12th at 6pm ET. Specific direction of the group will be determined by the members in our first meeting, so come with your ideas, suggestions, and uncertainties as we foster an open space to inquire honestly. Join us via [Zoom!](#)

PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TEXT: Intersectional Theology as a Resource for Social Justice

3-part Zoom Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey; Co-sponsored by BMCR and MIND

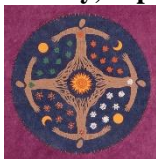
Wednesdays, Sept 8, 15, & 22; 7pm ET



The primary goal of these lessons is to determine how the Bible might speak to those of us who are shaded within particular contexts and overlapping identities (sex, race, gender, class) so that we are equipped to collaborate with other seekers of justice.

EXPLORING FAITH

Sunday, September 26; 12:30pm (following worship)



Do you want to learn more about the Church of the Village? Are you feeling called to belong to this amazing community? Please join us on Zoom after worship Sunday, May 23. This will be a great opportunity to learn more and get to know others who are new to the Church of the Village. Contact Pastor Alexis Waggoner or Pastor Jeff Wells for more information.

Join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82218263809?pwd=S25ucFB2YzRBSmE3Q2Q5dnc1VmxQZz09>

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

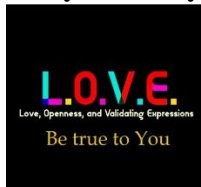
Friday mornings; 9:30am

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.

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)
Every Thursday; 8:15pm ET



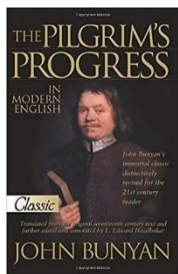
Our LGBTQA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

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; Note: Bible Study will begin at 6:00pm on Wednesdays 9/15 & 9/22.



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**

ROOTS: A SMALL GROUP FOR CONNECTION AND BELONGING

October 12 - November 19th



We are born with a longing for connection and belonging. We can only blossom and flourish emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually when we make conscious efforts to be curious about each other. This small group fosters deeper roots in our community by bringing people together to learn each other’s names, life stories, histories, traditions, emotions, personalities, struggles and dreams. Those who engage are asked to make a commitment to the entire 6 weeks (October 12 - November 19). If you have questions, reach out to Roots Facilitator [Alfida Figueroa](#).

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) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

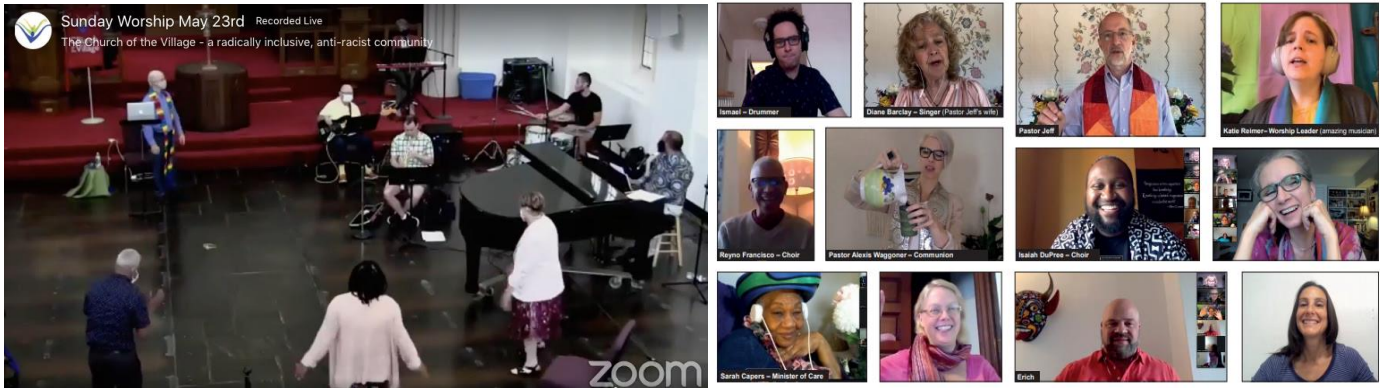
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

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.

With the increase of cases and hospitalizations due to the Covid-19 Delta variant, we do not know when we will open to the public. We are doing all we can to keep everyone on-site as safe as possible.

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](#).



**the
Church
of the Village**

A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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