



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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**October 1, 2023 • Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost •  
World Communion Sunday**

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



**Coming Home to the Earth**

## 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

*Nyanyikanlah nyanyian baru bagi Allah  
Sing to God a New Song*



Ber-so - rak-so - rai ba - gi Ra - ja-mu!

Sing to God a new song and praise  
the whole cre-a-tion, the earth and heavens above;  
all seraphim will praise God  
with all the hosts of cherubim joining voices in praise,  
**Bersorak-sorai bagi Rajamu!**

Praise to God in heaven,  
O sun and moon and planets, adore unceasingly now;  
O stars that glimmer with silver light,  
illuminate your Creator with beaming praise,  
**Bersorak-sorai bagi Rajamu!**

Hills and mountains, shout out your praises  
join the dance of the leptons, bosons and quarks\*  
Mighty cedars, sing with fungi,  
the high sequoias join in the song with roses and ferns.  
**Bersorak-sorai bagi Rajamu!**


All creation, join in the praise of your Creator,  
resound the joy of the world,  
sing glory in the highest  
and let the clouds forever announce a thundering praise.

**Bersorak-sorai bagi Rajamu!**

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

# WE PROCLAIM CALL TO LISTEN

*Tu Palabra / As We Listen*



Tu pa - la - bra me lle - na, me lle - na, Se - ñor.  
As we lis - ten to your Word, God, fill our lives with your grace.

Tu pa - la - bra me a - li - men - ta, me a - li - men - ta, Se - ñor.  
As we lis - ten to your Word, God, feed our souls, quench our thirst.

Tu pa - la - bra a - li - men - ta mi es - pí - ri - tu.  
May your Liv - ing Word sa - tis - fy our souls, and light the way.

Tu pa - la - bra me lle - na de glo - ria.  
May your Lov - ing Word, o - ver - flow our lives with your glo - ry.

## READINGS

“[T]he renewal of life on the planet must be based on the continuity between the human and the other than human as a single integral community. Once this continuity is recognized and accepted, then we will have fulfilled the basic condition that will enable the human to become more present to the Earth in a mutually enhancing manner.”

– Thomas Berry, *The Great Work*

“I sat once in a graduate writing workshop on relationships to the land. The students all demonstrated a deep respect and affection for nature. They said that nature was the place where they experienced the greatest sense of belonging and well-being. They professed without reservation that they loved the earth. And then I asked them, “Do you think that the earth loves you back?” No one was willing to answer that.... Here was a room full of writers, passionately wallowing in unrequited love of nature. So I made it hypothetical and asked, ‘What do you suppose would happen if people believed this crazy notion that the earth loved them back?’ The floodgates opened. They all wanted to talk at once.... One student summed it up: ‘You wouldn’t harm what gives you love.’

Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Words of Intertwined Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Coming Home to the Earth

**Rev. Jeff Wells**

Lead Pastor

Church of the Village

**WE RESPOND**

**WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE**

*Abundant Life*

**We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers growing,  
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.**

**With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That ev'ry creature find their place in God's love and salvation.**

**The bread we break the wine we pour, the very air we're breathing  
are gifts of rain, seed, earth, and sun – grace we are now receiving.**

**With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That ev'ry creature find their place in God's love and salvation.**

-----  
*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](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)  
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

## OFFERTORY

### *We Are Living Earth*

We know it in the mountain reaching up to the sky.  
We know it in the ocean swimming with life.  
We know it in the forest rooted deep, growing high.  
We know it in the buzzing of the honey bee.  
But do we know it in the mystery of you and me?

*It's who we are long before we're given names  
Who we are dust and dirt in human frames  
Who we are just a spark in nature's flame  
We don't live on the earth, after all –  
we are living earth.*

We know it in the glowing of the burning trees.  
We know it in the crashing waves of the rising seas.  
We know it in the fading of a bird's melody.  
We know it in the bone dry ridge where the river used to be.  
But do we know it in the emptiness within you and me?

If we really knew who we belonged to,  
What are the loads we wouldn't have to hold onto?  
If we really knew who we belonged to,  
What would our hearts feel called to do?  
If we knew this truth we might just break through  
to a deeper belonging, as siblings in nature's womb.

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Everyday Is a Day of Thanksgiving*

Everyday is a day of thanksgiving.  
God, you've been so good to me.  
Everyday you're blessing me.  
Everyday is a day of thanksgiving.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
you opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.  
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### BLESSING

### CLOSING SONG

*When You Wonder, When You Wander*

**When you wonder, when you wander,  
seeking anything, everything,  
in the searching, in the longing,  
God is holding you still.**

**In your caution, in your questions,  
asking honestly, fervently,  
in your wrestling, in your straining,  
God is holding you still.**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

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, & Dwight Campbell

**Worship Leader:** Scarlet Begonia

**Dance Ministry:** Maura Burns, Aza McClure

**Call to Offering:** Bailey Roach

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

**Visuals Design:** 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, Miles Mitchell, Shelby Hall Denney, Nora von der Heydt

**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:** Paul Pillitteri

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** iStock Image #1347743130, by Santiago, Used by permission

***Nyanyikanlah nyanyian baru bagi Allah / Sing to God a New Song***

W: T. Lubis, Indonesia; Psalm 148, para., Rolando Tinio (stz. 1, 2, 4); Jorge Lockward (stz. 3)

M: NYANYIKANLAH, trad. Batak melody, Toba, Indonesia  
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***Tu Palabra/As We Listen***

W & M: Raúl Carranza.

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***Abundant Life***

W: Ruth Duck (alt)

stz. 2 by Jorge Lockward  
(echoing Ruth Duck's original text)

M: Robert Lowry (attrib.)

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***Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)***

*Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.*

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***We Are Living Earth***

W & M: James Underberg

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***Everyday is a Day of Thanksgiving***

W & M: Leonard Burks

© Leonard Burks.

***When You Wonder, When You Wander***

W: Adam Tice

M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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Music © 2017, Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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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>October 1 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:30pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet The Alliance (after worship)
<b>October 3 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>October 4 – Wednesday</b>	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
<b>October 7 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>Oct. 8 – Sunday</b>	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](mailto: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](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!*

## COMING HOME a new worship series



The Fall season offers a time of homecoming and re-set, as many of us get back into schedules and routines after the busy-ness of Summer. For the month of September, we'll ponder various types of homecomings and what it means to "return" to important places: to God, ourselves, our community, the earth. Join us September 10 - October 1 as we come home together.

## 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.



## THE ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays after worship



The Alliance will meet the first Sunday of the month, starting October 1 after worship. Outings will include sharing meals together, exploring the city, museum visits, and more. Open to anyone who is young adult(ish), college age - mid-thirties. Bring a dish to share.

## 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

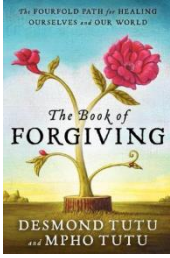
## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](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.



## 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: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9;  
(917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie,  
Minister for Leadership & Congregational  
Development  
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Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8;  
(719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward,  
Minister of Worship Arts  
Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7;  
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