



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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October 10, 2021 • 20th 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



Living With an Open Hand

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Order My Steps
COTV Choir

Order my steps in your word, oh God. Lead me, guide me everyday.
Send your anointing, teach me your ways. Order my steps in your Word.
Please, order my steps in your Word.

Humbly, I ask you: teach me your will, while you are working, help me be still,
though Satan is busy, God is real; order my steps in your Word,
please, order my steps in your Word.

Bridle my tongue let my words edify,
let the words of my mouth be acceptable in your sight,
take charge of my thoughts both day and night;
Order my steps in your Word, please, order my steps in your Word.

I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, God, and I'll do your blessed will.
The world is ever changing, but you are still the same;
if you order my steps, I'll praise your name.

Order my steps in your Word. Order my tongue in your Word.
Guide my feet in your Word. Wash my heart in your Word.
Show me how to walk in your Word. Show me how to talk in your Word.
When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring
in your Word. Please order my steps in your Word.

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/

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Listen

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

Listen to your hunger and thirst...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31 (adapted from The Scholar's Version)

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life.

But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

This is a Word of liberating release.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Living with an Open Hand

Rev. Alexis Lillie

Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development,
Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

INVITATION

What We Need is Here

What we need is here

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.**

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Star of the County Down

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 Pastor Alexis Lillie
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, WL Figueroa

PowerPoint Design: Gabriel Borges, Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: Dwight Campbell

Holy Communion: Pastor Jeff Wells & Martha Chapman

Call to Offering: Louis Echevarria

Dance Ministry: Elizabeth Levanah

Ministers of Care: Rhonda Wade (online) & Sam Winfrey (on-site)

Vocalists: Dorothy Guerrero, Jorge Lockward, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Rebecca Watts, Suzie Wilder

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward & Rebecca Watts

Bass: Richard Garretson

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Zoom Visual Host: Emilee Davis

Zoom Chat Host: Maya Carter

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

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Order My Steps

W & M: Glenn Burleigh

When the Spirit in Me (The Jesus in Me)

W & M: Anonymous.

Lyric adaptation by Jorge Lockward

Listen

W & M: Thomas Turner

© Thomas Turner

What We Need Is Here

W: Wendell Berry

M: Amy McCreath

W: © 1998 Wendell Berry. Used with permission

M: © 2017 Augsburg Fortress

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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Star of the County Down

M: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN (Irish Traditional Folk Song)

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

October 10 – Sunday	10:30am 12:30pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women (via Zoom)
October 11 – Monday	1:00pm 2:00pm	Decolonize Ghana / Defeat Hate march Decolonize Ghana / Defeat Hate rally
October 12 – Tuesday	3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry QUESTIONS (via Zoom)
October 13 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
October 14 – Thursday	8:15pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
October 15 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
October 16 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
October 17 – 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>

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

From January through September 2021, congregational giving at COTV totaled \$91,914.00, reaching 68 percent of our congregational giving needs for all of 2021. Thanks be to God and to our faithful COTV family!

TROUBLING TEXTS: QUESTIONING THE BIBLE

A New Worship Series

Sundays, October 17 – November 21, 2021



So many of us left behind the beliefs of our upbringing because the doctrines we were taught did not align with our actual experience of life and of God. We had too many questions that our elders could not (or would not) answer.

- If God is all-powerful, why is there so much suffering and evil?
- Is there really a heaven, a hell, or life after death?
- Did Jesus really have to be crucified for anyone to be “saved”?

It's good to ask questions. Desiring a relationship with a loving God does not mean we need all of the answers. Asking questions and discerning together is, in fact, crucial to the journey of following Jesus.

This series will address difficult questions that challenge common Biblical or theological stances that no longer make sense or meet the needs of the world. So, bring your questions, doubts, and longings.

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!](#)

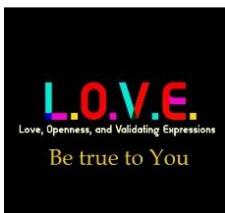
TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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.

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

Every Thursday; 8:15pm ET



Our LGBTQIA+ 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](#).

JUSTICE FOR OUR BEIGHBORS ONLINE AUCTION

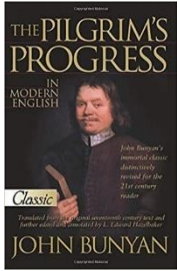
Save the Date: October 15th through November 15th

Browse and bid on more than 50 carefully curated pieces of art, from paintings to prints to pottery during New York Justice For Our Neighbors for our online art auction. Every dollar you spend gives you a chance to acquire a piece of art that you will treasure forever while also enabling us to provide free legal services to our immigrant neighbors with compassion, dignity, and love.

Check this space next week for the link where you can bid on these one of a kind works of art.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



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 6:00 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

Tuesdays, October 12 - November 16, 7pm ET



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](#).

To sign up: visit <https://forms.gle/agcmg9De2eyU3X4u9>. Sign up closes Sunday, October 10, 2021.

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-YOX3>.

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God.

If you would like to join the Prayer Partners team, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

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

SERMON ARCHIVE

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

JOIN US TO PROTEST HATE BILL

Join the Church of the Village at the NYC Rally to Defeat the LGBTQI+ Hate Bill in Ghana, Monday, Oct. 11 at 2pm (March at 1pm; see details below). Pastor Alexis Lillie will speak at the rally for the Church of the Village. If you have questions or plan to attend, please [email pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org).

PROTEST

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY & NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

DECOLONIZE GHANA!

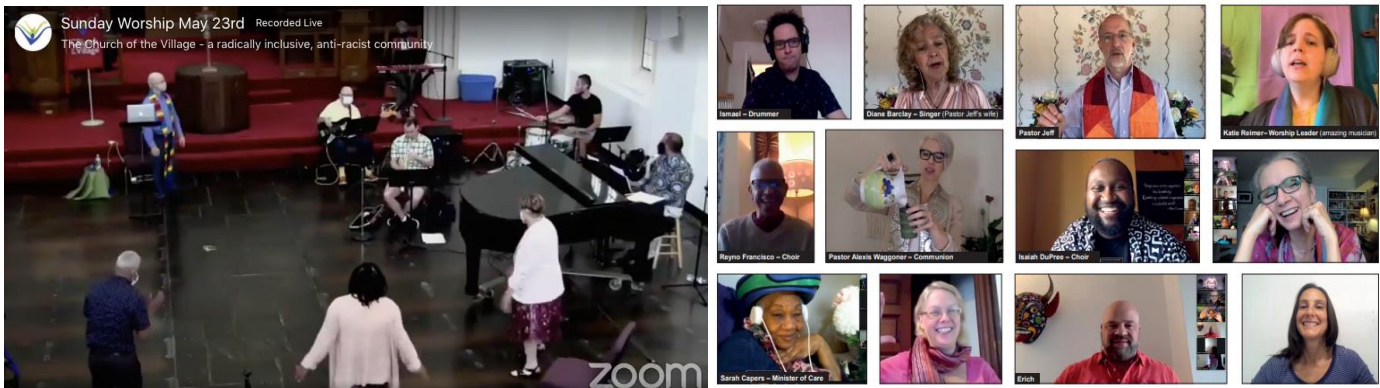
NEW YORK RALLY TO DEFEAT LGBTQ+ HATE BILL

POSTER PREP - 12PM 110TH ST. & LENOX AVE. (ENTRANCE TO CENTRAL PARK)
MARCH - 1PM (ENTRANCE TO CENTRAL PARK)
RALLY - 2PM MARCUS GARVEY PARK (NORTH EAST CORNER LAWN, BY 124TH ST. & MADISON AVE.) HARLEM, NYC. MUNSEE LENAPE LAND

FOLLOW: @LGBTRIGHTSGHANA
@RIGHTIFYGHANA
@SMAJORITYGH

EVENT CONTACTS: ABENA HUTCHFUL @MAROON.RABBIT, ARTHUR MUSAH @PIDGINCINEMA

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](#).



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