

October 31, 2021 • 23rd 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



Traveling Companions

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

"Humankind was created as God's reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them." *Genesis 1:27*

"Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I who took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them." *Hosea 11:3-4*

"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." *Isaiah 66:13*

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." *Isaiah 49:15*

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, is she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." *Luke 15:8-10*

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of God's grace is present in this place let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice. She wraps herself in light and wisdom is her might, we tremble at her voice, we tremble at her voice.

// How great is our God, (sing with me) how great is our God and all will sing how great, how great is our God. //

From age to age she stands and time is in her hands Beginning and the end, beginning and the end

She goes by many names but none that will contain her power and her flame, her power and her flame.

Name beyond all names, worthy of all praise – And my heart will sing how great is our God!

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leaning On the Everlasting Arms

What a sisterhood, what a joy divine Leaning on the everlasting arms What a blessedness, what a peace is mine Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my God so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

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

Ruth 1:1-18 (NRSV)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that God had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May God deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. May God grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too

old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying?

No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the God has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May God do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

This is a Word of Trust and Solidarity. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Traveling Companions

Rev. Valerie Bridgeman, Ph.D.

Dean & Vice President of Academic Affairs Associate Professor, Homiletics & Hebrew Bible Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF HEALING

There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

SONG OF TRUST

Jesus the Christ

Jesus the Christ, your light shines within us let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me. Let my heart always welcome your love.

> Jésus le Christ, lumière intérieure, ne laisse pas mes ténèbres me parler. Jésus le Christ, lumière intérieure, donne- moi d'accueillir ton amour.

Cristo Jesús, oh fuego que abrasa, no dejes que mis tinieblas tengan voz. Cristo Jesús, disipa mis sombras y que en mí solo hable tu amor. Isaiah 66:12-13a (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)

"I will spread peace over you like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.

As nurslings, you will be carried in my arms, and fondled in my lap;

as a mother comforts her child so will I comfort you..."

SILENCE

INTERCESSIONS

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

SONG OF HOPE

God My Strength

God my strength, God my hope and courage,
God the reason for my song.
God my rock, salvation and joy,
my help and comfort, in whom I trust,
my help and comfort in whom I trust.

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

She Comes Sailing on the Wind

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun; on a journey just begun, she flies on.

And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night, full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth, like an empty cradle waiting to be filled. And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth, like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form. Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight, and then down the ages still she flew on.

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came, a whisper softly calling in the dark, the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end, Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. Flying to the river, she waited circling high above the child now grown so full of grace.

As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky, and she carried him away in her embrace.

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world, after dawn returned in flame of rising sun, the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled, bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

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 questions, in your seeking, when the way is tough, old answers fail in your wrestling, in your searching, 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 join conversation with Rev. Valerie Bridgeman type the word "**PREACHER**" in capital letters into the chat.

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site, you can do that with Katie Braden in the Narthex. If you are online, you can connect with TBD by typing "CARE" in capital letters in the Zoom chat.



WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team:

Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

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

Worship Leader: Katie Reimer Call to Offering: Katie Braden Dance Ministry: Martha Chapman Ministers of Care: TBD & Katie Braden

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Jorge Lockward, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer,

Bruce Rescorl, 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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She Comes Sailing on the Wind

M: Gordon Light

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How Great Is Our God

W: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves, adapted by J. Lockward and A. Powell M: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves © 2004 sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing worshiptogether.com songs, Wondrously Made Songs CCLI #1125761

Leaning On the Everlasting Arms

W & M: E. A. Hoffman, alt.

Wade in the Water

W & M: African American Spiritual

There Is a Balm in Gilead

W & M: African American Spiritual

Jesus the Christ

W & M: Taizé Community

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Kyrie 9

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God My Strength

W & M: Taizé Community

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When You Wonder, When You Wander

W: Stz. 1, Adam Tice; Stz. 2, Jorge Lockward M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose Words © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc. Music © 2017, Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose Onelicense.net # A-725898

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 <u>Virtual Welcome Card</u>.

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 <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u>.

Please follow us on Facebook (<u>Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage</u>), 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 <u>churchofthevillage.org</u>.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

October 31 – Sunday	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
November 2 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm 7:00pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry ROOTS (via Zoom)
November 3 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
November 4 – Thursday	8:30pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
November 5 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
November 6 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
November 7 – Sunday	10:30am 12:30pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care



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: <u>Vanco</u>'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

OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. VALERIE BRIDGEMAN, Ph.D.



Rev. Valerie Bridgeman, Ph.D. (she/her/hers) is the Dean & Vice President of Academic Affairs as well as Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible at Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). She is the founding president and CEO of WomanPreach!, https://www.womanpreach.org, "the premier non-profit organization that brings preachers into full prophetic voice around issues of equity and justice in the pulpit and in the public arena." She holds a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Baylor University, an M.Div. from Austin Theological Seminary, and a double-major BA in Communications and Religion from Trinity University in San Antonio. She is a Womanist activist.

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.

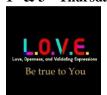
TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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)

1st & 3rd Thursdays; 8:30pm ET



Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this <u>link</u> 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.

COTY ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina returns Tuesdays at 10:30 am ET.

Join us via **Zoom!**

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

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.

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

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 <u>VANCO</u>'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. <u>VANCO</u>'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 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 <u>ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons</u>. 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 <u>Pastor Jeff Wells</u> or <u>Pastor Alexis Lillie</u>.



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

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Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.10

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place (aka Hope for Our Neighbors in Need)

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Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

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Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: livnnyc@gmail.com

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

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