



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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**November 14, 2021 • 25th 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**



***God is Not in Control –  
Thank Goodness!***

# WE GATHER

## PRELUDE

## CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

### *How Long*

How long, how long will you quite forget me?  
How long, how long will you turn your face from me?  
How long, O God, must I suffer in my soul?  
How long, how long, O God?

How long, how long must this grief possess my heart?  
How long, how long must I languish day and night?  
How long, O God, shall my enemies oppress?  
How long, how long, O God?

Look now, look now and answer me, my God;  
give light, give light lest I sleep the sleep of death.  
Lest my enemies rejoice at my downfall  
Look now, look now, O 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

*Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love,  
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

This is a Word boundless goodness and love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE

*God is Not in Control – Thank Goodness!*

**Rev. Thomas Jay Oord, Ph.D.  
Director of the Center for Open and Relational Theology**

## WE RESPOND

## WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

### INVITATION

*We Are Coming Now to Your Table*

**We are coming now to your table //  
We are coming now to your table  
to receive your grace we are coming, God  
to receive your love we are coming, God  
Oh, we are coming, God //**

## 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

*Pelas dores deste mundo / For the Troubles and the Suffering*

**For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,  
God, we call upon your mercy:  
the whole creation's laboring in pain!**

**Lend a ear to the rising cry for help  
from oppressed and hopeless people.  
Come! hasten your salvation, healing love!**

**We pray for peace, the blessed peace  
that comes from making justice,  
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, God!**

**We pray for power, the power  
that will sustain your people's witness:  
until your Kin-dom come, Kyrie eleison!\***

\*Kyrie eleison (*Greek*): Lord, have mercy. Ancient Christian Prayer.

## TIME OF OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

## 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. Thomas Oord  
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 Virginia Riker or Sam Winfrey in the Narthex. If you are online, you can connect with  
Sarah Capers by typing “**CARE**” in capital letters in the Zoom chat.



16TH ANNUAL

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
**SUN. DEC. 19TH,**  
**10:30AM**

MORE INFO: [CHURCHOFTHEVILLAGE.ORG](http://CHURCHOFTHEVILLAGE.ORG)



**the Church  
of the  
Village**

A Progressive, Radically Inclusive, Anti-Racist United Methodist Community

## 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:** Hala Abuhusien

**Call to Offering:** Virginia Riker

**Dance Ministry:** Elizabeth Levy

**Ministers of Care:** TBD (online) & TBD (on-site)

**Vocalists:** Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, 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:** Becca Love

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## CREDITS

### **Cover Image:**

*"Bryce Canyon National Park (July 2020),"* Photograph by Katie Reimer, *Used by Permission*

### **How Long**

W & M: John Bell

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### **Leaning On the Everlasting Arms**

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

### **Wade in the Water**

W & M: African American Spiritual

### **We Are Coming Now to Your Table**

W & M: Worship Chorus, Sierra Leone

*Onelicense.net # A-725898*

### **For the Troubles and the Suffering of the World**

W & M: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, Eng. trans., Simeí Monteiro & Jorge Lockward

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

W: Stz. 1, Adam Tice; Stz. 2, Jorge Lockward

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>November 14 – Sunday</b>	10:30am 12:30pm 2:00pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women Sunny Rivera Memorial
<b>November 15 – Monday</b>	7:00pm	District Charge Conference (via Zoom)
<b>November 16 – Tuesday</b>	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry
<b>November 17 – Wednesday</b>	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>November 18 – Thursday</b>	8:30pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
<b>November 19 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>November 20 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>November 21 – Sunday</b>	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](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!*

To make your pledge to this year's campaign please visit: <https://forms.gle/ApxV5fSkVBCT3Qfz7>



## OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. THOMAS JAY OORD



Thomas Jay Oord, Ph.D., is a theologian, philosopher, and scholar of multi-disciplinary studies. Oord directs the Center for Open and Relational Theology and doctoral students at Northwind Theological Seminary. He is an award-winning author and has written or edited more than twenty-five books. A gifted speaker, Oord lectures at universities, conferences, churches, and institutions. He is known for contributions to research on love, science and religion, open and relational theology, the problem of suffering, and the implications of freedom for transformational relationships. Website: [thomasjayoord.com](http://thomasjayoord.com)

## SUNNY RIVERA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, November 14, 2021; 2pm



This Sunday, Nov. 14th at 2pm ET, we will celebrate the life, love, and legacy of Church of the Village member, Sonia "Sunny" Iris Rivera who passed away October 1st. Please consider joining us to honor her memory. The service will be available via this link on Zoom, and you are welcome to join in-person at the church with proof of vaccination. If you'd like to attend in-person, email [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org) we will add you to the sign-up list.

## 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](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

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

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [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](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org).

Join Us via [Zoom](#).

## COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



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

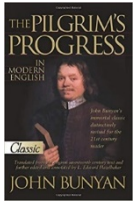
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

**Meeting ID:** 878 7016 4212

**Passcode:** fitness

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

Wednesdays; 6:00pm (Note: There will be no Bible Study Nov. 24, 2021)



*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



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](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](http://ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer).

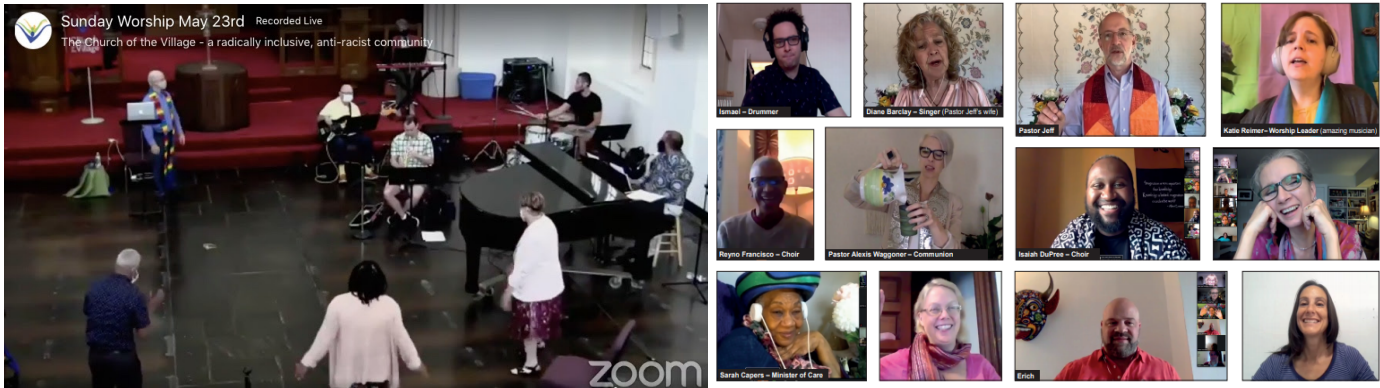
## COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshipping 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.

## 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  
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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](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: [Office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto: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](mailto:Teresa@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: [marthachapman62@gmail.com](mailto:marthachapman62@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: [scape131@aol.com](mailto:scape131@aol.com)

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: [livnyc@gmail.com](mailto:livnyc@gmail.com)

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: [reimerkatie@gmail.com](mailto:reimerkatie@gmail.com)