



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

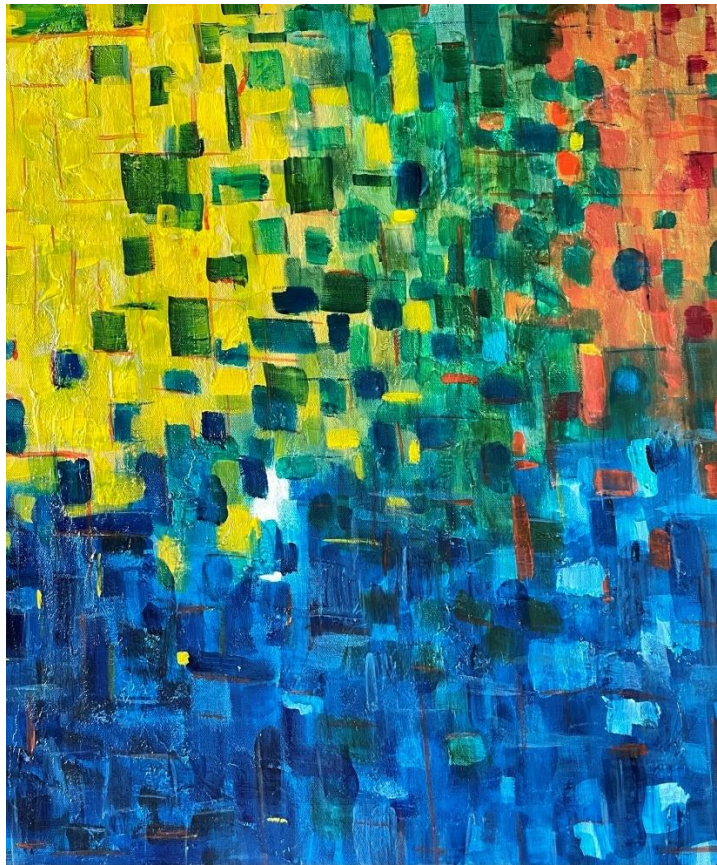
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**November 28, 2021 • 1st Sunday of Advent**

**Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter**

**No Human Being Is “Illegal” / No Muslim Ban Ever**

**Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



***Between Distraction and Despair:  
Advent as Apocalypse***

# WE GATHER

## PRELUDE

## CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*Come To Be Our Hope*

**Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set our people free.  
From oppression come, release us, grant us your true liberty.  
Come, release from every prison all who suffer in this world.  
In your love we'll find the reason still to live and understand.**

## WELCOME

## CELEBRATION OF NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Bambelela*

**Bambelela ///  
bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba,  
Oh! Bamba, bambelela.**

**Never give up ///  
never, never, never, never, never  
Oh! Never, never give up.**

**Never lose hope...**

# WE PROCLAIM

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Luke 21:25-36 (The Inclusive Bible)*

Jesus said:

“Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. on the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. the powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand.”

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. You see when they’re budding and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near.

The truth is, this generation will not pass away until all this takes place. The heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on your guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One.”

This is a word that shatters expectations.

**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*Between Distraction and Despair: Advent as Apocalypse*

Pastor Alexis Lillie  
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development,  
Church of the Village

## 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**

*Within Our Deepest Night*

**Within our deepest night,  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away.**

### LESSONS

*Isaiah 66:12-13a (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)*

Listen to God’s promise:

O God, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken:  
Seek God’s face. Instruct me, God, in your ways, on an even path lead me.

False witnesses rise against me, breathing out fury. I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living. In the Lord, hold firm and take heart. Place your hope in God!

from *Psalms 27*

Be patient, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be (...)

**SILENCE**

**INTERCESSIONS**

*Wait for our God*

**Wait for our God, whose day is near.  
Wait for our God: be strong, take heart!**

**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**

*Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*  
Megan Huangs

**WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

**BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Are You Ready*

**Are you ready?  
Are you ready for the coming of the Christ?  
“Be ye also ready; you know not the day;  
Will you be ready when Jesus comes?”**

To join conversation with Pastor Alexis Lillie  
type the word “**PREACHER**” in capital letters into the chat.

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care,  
you can do that on-site with Sam Winfrey in the Narthex.  
You can connect online with Sarah Capers  
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:** Dwight Campbell

**Advent Candle Lighting:**

**Call to Offering:** Erich Dietrich

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs

**Ministers of Care:** Sarah Capers (online) & Sam Winfrey (on-site)

**Vocalists:** Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts, Suzie Wilder

**Saxophone & Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward & Rebecca Watts

**Bass:** Richard Garretson

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Zoom Host:** Gabriel Borges

**Zoom Visual Host:** Katie Reimer

**Zoom Chat Host:** Becca Love

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## CREDITS

### **Cover Image:**

*Every Little Thing*, by Janine Dowdle,

[www.janinedowdle.com](http://www.janinedowdle.com), Used with permission

### **Come To Be Our Hope**

W: Jaci Maraschin

M: HYFRYDOL (Rowland Hugh Prichard)

Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, Brazil

Words © Jaci Maraschin

Music © Marcílio de Oliveira Filho.

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### **Bambelela**

W & M: Xhosa - South Africa

### **There Is a Balm in Gilead**

W & M: African American Spiritual

### **Within Our Deepest Night**

W & M: Communauté de Taizé

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### **Wait for the Lord**

W & M: Communauté de Taizé

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### **God My Strength**

W & M: Taizé Community

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### **Are You Ready?**

W & M: James Cleveland Mass Choir



16TH ANNUAL

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

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



## 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 28 – Sunday</b>	10:30am 12:00pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Exploring Faith
<b>November 30 – Tuesday</b>	10:30am <del>3:30pm</del> – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP (CLOSED): No Food Pantry
<b>December 1 – Wednesday</b>	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>December 2 – Thursday</b>	8:30pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
<b>December 3 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>December 4 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>December 5 – Sunday</b>	10:30am 12:15pm	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](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>



## ADVENT MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

### A New Worship Series

Sundays, November 28 – December 19, 2021



We often think of Advent as a time of expectant waiting. But what about when we are stuck in the midst of despair? Or what if we're unsure of what we're waiting for? Can we hold in tension possibility and hope; despair and cynicism?

Join us for this Advent series that will invite us to seek the lights we need for our own journey – while acknowledging that any despair, grief, or unease we feel aren't things to be rushed past, but experiences to be traveled through.

## EXPLORING FAITH

Sunday, November 28, 2021, after worship



Do you want to learn more about the Church of the Village? Are you feeling called to belong to this amazing community? Please join us on Zoom after worship Sunday, November 28. This will be a great opportunity to learn more and get to know others who are new to the Church of the Village. Contact Pastor Alexis Lillie or Pastor Jeff Wells for more information.

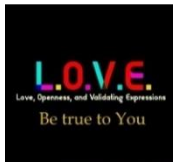
Join us via Zoom!

## 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](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.

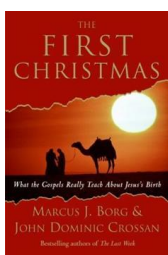
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm - **There will be no Bible Study Nov. 24, 2021**



Bible Study resumes Wednesday, December 1 with a new study *The First Christmas* by Marcus Bored. The focus of this study is an in-depth examination of the Christmas stories recorded in the gospels. We will examine the similarities and differences of each story during the Advent Season. Everyone is invited to join us. Bible study is facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess.

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



**TRDP WILL BE CLOSED: 11/27, 11/30, 12/25, and 1/1.**

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



The Church of the Village never “closed” during the Covid-19 pandemic because we shifted our entire ministry to be online in March 2020. Then, as the world began slowly to emerge in the summer of 2021 from the worst of the pandemic, there was no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic.

Our reality and our 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. As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. We opened to all of our vaccinated members in September 2021 and have expanded vision and our capacities since then to become a fully online and onsite community. We are actively evaluating when to open fully to the vaccinated public.

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. We are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this dream becoming reality, 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](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

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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)

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

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

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