



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage
office@churchofthevillage.org

December 3, 2023 • First Sunday of Advent

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



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Holding Onto Esperanza / Hope

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Lenape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

GATHERING SONG

The Song of the Angels

God is pre-sent in this place all a-round us, in each face.
All are wel-come in this place, all are che-rished loved, em-braced.

There are an-gels in our midst this is why we dare to sing:
As we join our hearts to sing hope is born, a - ma - zing grace.

Glo - ri - a

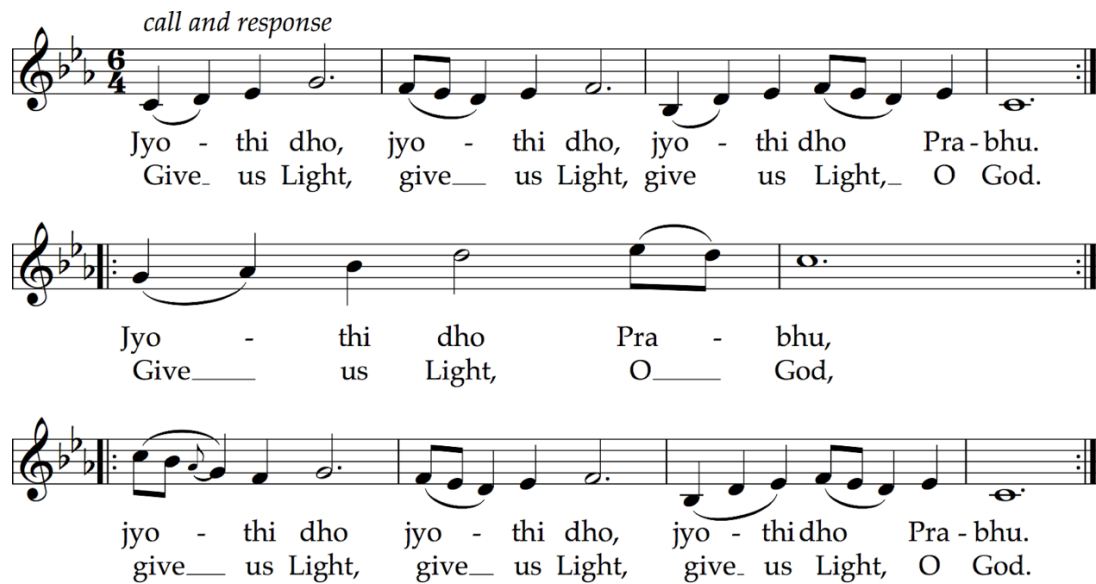
1. in ex-cel-sis De - o. 2. in ex-cel-sis De - o.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Jyothi do Prabhu (Give Us Light)

call and response



Jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu.
Give us Light, give us Light, give us Light, O God.

Jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu,
Give us Light, O God,

jyo - thi dho jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu.
give us Light, give us Light, give us Light, O God.

PRAYER

Walk in the Light



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti - ful light.

Come where the dew-drops of mer - cy are bright.

Shine all a - round us by day and by night.

Je - sus, the light of the world.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

THE VOWS OF MEMBERSHIP

Pastor: On behalf of the Church of the Village community, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness
and reject the evil powers of this world?

New members: I do.

Pastor: Will you resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

New members: I will.

Pastor: Will you strive to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbor as yourself?

New members: I will.

Pastor: Will you follow Jesus' example of practicing liberating love and radical inclusion, extending welcome toward people in their full expression of humanity?

New members: I will.

Pastor: Will you join your journey to ours, seeking to strengthen this community through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness, radical inclusivity, and work for justice?

New members: I will.

CONGREGATIONAL VOWS

Lay Leader: Will you receive them into this community, committing to journey with them as chosen family?

ALL: We joyfully welcome you!

Lay Leader: Will you surround them with a spirit of courage so they feel free to live into their highest potential and calling?

ALL: We will

Lay Leader: Will you extend grace to them, enabling them to try new things, shift perspective, and grow in their relationship with the divine?

ALL: We will

PRAYER

PRESENTATION

Fanga

Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe*

Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe

Welcome into our heart, ashe, ashe

We'll never be apart, ashe, ashe

Gladness will be our song: Ashe! Ashe!

Justice will be our dance: Ashe! Ashe!

*Fanga: A traditional Yoruba dance of welcome.

Alafia: A greeting wishing the wellbeing of the person being greeted.

Ashe: Yoruba word that speaks of the force of life that flows from the Creator and joins all things.

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Job 14:7-9 (The Inclusive Bible)

Trees always have hope; once felled, there is the chance of a new sprout with tender shoots. Even with the root rotting underground and a withered stump half alive, yet it will bud at the scent of water, and put out branches like a new plant.

2 Peter 3:10-15 (The Inclusive Bible)

The day of our God will come like a thief, and on that day the heavens will vanish with a roar; the elements will catch fire and fall apart, and the earth and all its works will be destroyed in the flames. Since everything is to be destroyed in this way, what holy and devoted lives you should lead! Look for the coming of the Day of God, and try to hasten it along. Because of it, the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt away in a blaze. But what we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to the promise, God's justice will reside. So beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found at peace and without stain or defilement in God's sight. Consider our God's patience as your opportunity for salvation.

The Word of Hope.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Awaiting Dawn: Holding Onto Esperanza / Hope

Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

Jesus Christ, Hope of the World

**A little beyond this our time
the future announces with gladness
no war, no racism, no crime,
no more desolation, no sadness.**

*¡Venha teu Reino Senhor!**
transform our lament into dancing,
and all our hope and our longings
transform in the fullness of life.
Aie, eia, ae, ae, ae //

**A bud of your hope is sprouting,
the token of flowers in spring:
a world to arrive, no doubting,
with justice and joy that you bring.**

**The seeds of your kingdom we bear,
your future is drawing so near
the earth, with your help, we prepare
until you, in fullness, appear.**

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

A TIME OF OFFERING

4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- The Vanco giving app, using the link on our website <https://www.churchofthevillage.org> or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.
- Setting up a direct bank transfer from your bank to COTV's bank
- Mailing a check to COTV's address: 201 West 13th St., NY, NY, 10011
- For those in the church building: Placing your gift in the offering basket in the sanctuary

For help with any of these, send an email to giving@churchofthevillage.org
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470



OFFERTORY

Tenemos Esperanza (We have hope)

Because Christ came, to enter our human history,
Because Christ broke the bonds of silent anguish,
Because Christ filled our world with radiant mystery,
And brings God's warmth and light to where we languish.

Because his birth made rich a humble manger,
Because he sowed the seeds of life and pardon,
Because he shattered hatred of the stranger,
And lifted up the weary and disheartened.

*Por eso es que hoy tenemos esperanza**
Persistent in our struggles toward the morning.
Because of this, our hope and expectations
look toward the dawn when earth will know Christ's coming.
Because of this, we wait with eager patience,
Persistent in our struggles toward the morning.
Because of this, our hope and expectations look toward the dawn.

Because Christ launched attacks on blind ambition,
 And he denounced hypocrisy and evil;
 He honored women and he blessed the children,
 But left the proud to rage at their own peril.
 Because he bore the cross for our transgression,
 And drank the bitter cup of pain and sorrow,
 Christ bowed beneath the yoke of sin's oppression
 And suffered death that we might face tomorrow.

Because his triumph came one early morning
 as he defeated fear deceit, and lying,
 Christ rose victorious, trampling death by dying:
 And lives today as we complete his story.

*** This is why we have hope,*

NOTE: "Tenemos Esperanza," an iconic Latin American hymn, written in the 1970's by Argentine Methodist Bishop Federico Pagura as a response to the dire political climate in Latin America, including the overthrow of Salvador Allende and the establishment of the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile and the "dirty war" in Argentina. It quickly became a vehicle to express hope and solidarity in the midst of political oppression and human rights abuses.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Take My Hands

Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts. Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts.
 Take my hands, oh, take my hands. Take my hands, oh, take my hands.
 Bless this world, oh, bless this world. Bless this world, oh, bless this world.

Let them be to-kens of your love. Take these gifts, O God.
 Let them bless; let them o - pen wide. take my hands, O God.
 may it heal, may it be made whole, bless this world, O God.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Come To Be Our Hope, O Jesus

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

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,
you can go to the area by the stairs next to the lobby/narthex at the back of the sanctuary.
If you are online, you can connect with a Minister of Care
by typing “**CARE**” in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer & Jim Norton.

Advent Candle Lighting: Liam and Liev Moore (accompanied by their parents Duane & Yulia)

Lector/Reader: Katie Reimer

Dance Ministry: Aliyah Miller

Call to Offering: Rev. Anne Morgan

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach

Vocalists: Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Kelsey Evans, John C. Flake, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, John Wesley Heaton, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Shelby Hall Denney, Nora von der Heydt

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Usher: Sam Winfrey

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

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

CREDITS

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God Is Present in this Place (The Song of the Angels)

W: Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

M: French carol melody

Words © 2017 Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

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Jyothi do Prabhu (Give Us Light)

W&M: Charles Vas

© 1990 Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music and the Christian Conference of Asia, Manila, Philippines.

Walk in the Light

W & M: George D. Elderkin

Fanga Alafia

W & M: West African Greeting Song

Jesucristo, esperanza del mundo/Jesus Christ, Hope of the World

W: Edmundo Reinhardt, Brazil trans. Pablo Sosa

M: João Carlos Gottinari

W: © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

M: © 1994, Abingdon Press, admin. Music Services

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Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

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Tenemos Esperanza (We Have Hope)

W: Bishop Federico Pagura,

Eng. trans. by Mary Louise Bringle (alt.)

M: Homero Perera, arr. Mark McGurty

© 1979,1999, General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

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Take My Hands

W: Adam M.L. Tice. Stz. 1, Jorge Lockward

M: Sally Ann Morris

© 2015, GIA Publications, Inc.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

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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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

December 3 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Choir rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Pageant Rehearsal
December 4 – Monday	6:30pm	Cantico Nuevo Choir rehearsal
December 5 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm 7:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry Roots (via Zoom)
December 6 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30 pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal Bible Study
December 7 – Thursday	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Pageant Rehearsal
December 9 – Saturday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm 11:30am – 2:00pm	Christmas Market TRDP: Community Meal
December 10– Sunday	9:30am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:15pm 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Choir rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet United Methodist Women Christmas Market

2023 Stewardship Campaign

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.
Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together.

Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>

Questions: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org

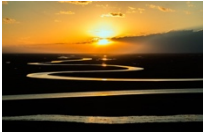
We all work together as members and supporters of our spiritual community to foster the ministries and mission of the Church of the Village. Here are ways you can offer your gifts:

- **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!*

AWAITING DAWN an Advent worship series December 3 - December 24



Advent is a season of waiting, of hopeful anticipation. Yet both hope and anticipation can sometimes fall flat when held up against life's most difficult realities. When embraced and lived out well, the church's unique gift is that we aren't forced into performing false feelings but are allowed to sit in the shadows that so often arise. During these four weeks we'll explore what is possible when we acknowledge the heaviness around us, while allowing dawn to break through the clouds as we wait in expectation for eventual light.

COTV CHRISTMAS MARKET December 9 (10a-6pm) & December 10 (1pm-6pm)



Come to COTV's Christmas Market to shop handmade gifts, jewelry, ornaments, knitting, sewing, oils, woodworking, holiday cards, pottery, etc. from local artists. Enjoy a festive atmosphere and sip hot apple cider, coffee and cookies provided by COTV.

We are also looking for vendors interested in selling their products. To sign up, fill out this form - forms.gle/JLAdy5UrorKXgRsF8. To ask questions, write to office@churchofthevillage.org.



COTV CHRISTMAS PAGEANT December 17, 10 AM

We are looking for folks to get involved in our Christmas Pageant at Church of the Village! Actors, tech crew, stagehands, etc. please reach out to Martha Chapman (marthachapman62@gmail.com) to find out more.



ADVENT POTLUCK December 17, after worship

Bring a dish to share to our Advent potluck following worship in the COTV gym on Dec. 17. See Pastor Alexis for more info or to sign up to bring a dish.

COMMUNITY CLOSET Sundays, Noon to 1pm.

Community Closet is seeking donations!



Ready to let go of some of your gently used clothing and accessories? Make space in your closet by helping to stock our free, inclusive, and identity-affirming community closet. Contributions can be brought to COTV on Sundays or email Pastor Alexis to arrange a possible pick-up!

Spread the word! Church of the Village's Community Closet will be available every Sunday for 1 hour after service in the narthex. All are welcome to browse the racks and shop for free! If you know of someone who may be desiring a new style or a wardrobe change, please invite them to check us out! We have a variety of styles and sizes but are especially looking for donations of womenswear in sizes 10 and above as well as menswear in good condition. Interested in hosting the Community Closet after service one Sunday? Sign up here or e-mail Beccalove123@gmail.com for more info!

DANCE PRAYER

Every third Thursday of the month, 6:30pm-7:30pm



Join us in the sanctuary every third Thursday of the month for Dance Prayer! We will come together with an opening prayer and moment of reflection and then spend 45 minutes moving our bodies and dancing together to a diverse playlist. There will be no designated choreography and no final performance, just a joyful space to connect with your own rhythm while rejoicing in the gift of dance and community. Each gathering will then close with a moment of prayer and reflection before we part ways

HEALING CONVERSATIONS

(Every 4th Sunday of the month); 12:30pm

Healing Conversations is a place to share your feelings about the losses in your life in a safe, supportive, and friendly atmosphere. Your feelings of loss may be caused by events that are recent or in the distant past. You are invited to join our small group on site or online via Zoom (**Meeting ID:** 838 5366 1938 **Passcode:** 690827).

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Wednesday mornings; 9:00am

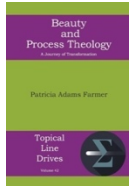
Our weekly prayer group includes an inspirational reading, time to support one another, and prayers for ourselves, others, and events in the world. We gather via Zoom conference call Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00am (**Meeting ID:** 850 0514 7319 **Passcode:** 594909). For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at smcapers99@gmail.com.



THE ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

1st Sundays after worship

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *BEAUTY AND PROCESS THEOLOGY*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm

In this book, theologian and pastor Patricia Adams Farmer invites us to move beyond limiting ways we have of speaking of God. She sees God as both beautiful and the ongoing author of beauty. God invites us in living a vision, and that vision is not just “good” in some abstract sense. Learn to think about and experience God in a new way as you bring process and beauty together. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; **Meeting ID:** 713 063 594 **Passcode:** 10011

THE RED DOOR PLACE



Donations, in person, to the program can be made Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9am to 3pm. Ring the bell on the red door on 13th street or call the number posted at the door.

Food Pantry: Tuesdays; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Appointments are available via the [Plentiful App](#) (download from the play/app store). You can search for us, in the app, by name “The Red Door Place” or scroll through the list (towards the bottom) and our pantry will show. After registering on the app, you will receive a QR code - **BRING the QR code with you to your appointment.** Arrive within 5 minutes of your scheduled appointment and present your QR code for scanning.

If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry. **Note:** Missed appointments can be rescheduled to a later open slot or the following Tuesday. If you have any questions call (347) 687-5321 or visit www.thereddoorplace.org.

Community Meal: We will continue to hand out bags of food on Saturdays beginning around 11:30am. Guests may arrive earlier to get a place in line; we have chalk marks on the sidewalk at 6-foot intervals to indicate where people should stand at a safe distance.

THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, ask your employer, your family, your friends to GIVE! Put out an appeal on your Facebook page. Email people you think would be able to donate.

TO MAKE A DONATION, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Red Door Place empowerment ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God. If you would like to pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) 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.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org

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

Pastor Alexis Lillie,

Minister for Leadership & Congregational
Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8;
(719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward,

Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7;
(917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción,

Executive Director, The Red Door Place

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Alfida Figueroa, Chair,

Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com