



the
Church
of the
Village



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 17, 2023 • Third Sunday of Advent

18th Annual Christmas Pageant

JOY: The Story of Christmas



Nativity Three, by Kate Cosgrove (katecosgrove.com), Permission requested.

SONG OF ENTRANCE

O Come All Ye Faithful
COTV Choir, Dancers & Congregation

Adeste, fideles, laeti triumphantes;
venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte Regem angelorum.

*Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
venite adoremus, Dominum.*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come now, O come now to Bethlehem:
Come and behold the ruler of all angels:**

*O come in adoration,
O come in adoration,
O come, and greet the holy,
Christ, our Love!*

**Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation!
Sing, all you messengers of heavenly love.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**


**Child, for the broken, poor and in the manger,
We would embrace you with love and awe.
Who would not love you, loving all so dearly?**

WELCOME

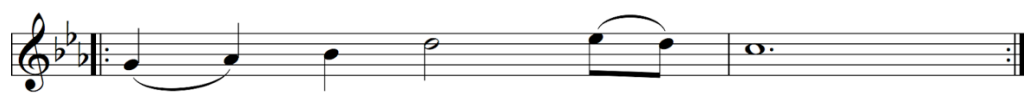
LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

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.

Walk in the Light

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and accompaniment consists of chords. The lyrics are: 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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Script developed by Marisa Kreinbihl with Jorge Lockward, Alexis Lillie and Martha Chapman
Prologue by Paul Pillitteri*

PROLOGUE

Innkeeper & Cousin

Joy Will Find a Way

Katie Braden & COTV Choir

When all the world is fraught with madness
and you can't hear the sound of your heart beating
over shouts of fear that the end is near,
remember, the road is long and winding
and you can't always see just where you going;
where the path is clear, that will lead you home.

Joy will find you when you are broken,
Show you the way where dreams can break open.
Joy will find you no matter where you go,
no matter who you are, wherever the winds blow.

Times are hard, we lose our way,
our trust in man frays, goes astray.
But Joy will find a way
Believe me when I say: Joy will find a way

when all is dark and gray Joy will find a way,
turn night into the day, Joy will find a way.

I don't know but I've been told
that joy is all you need to know.
No matter how, no matter why
just trust in joy and you will find...

ACT I

Scene 1: The Angel Gabriel comes to Zechariah and Mary, Mary visits Elizabeth

The Annunciation

John Wesley Heaton & Maura Burns, soloists
COTV Choir

Angel Gabriel

I salute you noble woman, precious jewel.
You've been chosen, highly favored in God's eyes.
This is the message I bring:
you'll carry the blessed Child of God.
Your very womb will bring God's love into this broken world.

Angel Gabriel & Choir

Do not be afraid, you are not alone.
The shadow of God will embrace you and bring salvation to the world.

You will name this holy Child Jesus the Christ,
who will bring the way of love to ev'ry heart.
His kin-dom will never end, he'll bring all the nations to God,
and will be named Emmanuel, the gift of God with us.

Do not be afraid...

Mary:

Even though I am still stunned by this surprise,
I have learned to trust in God, follow God's way.
I'll dare the journey ahead, I'll live in the shadow of hope.
I will say, Yes!
Let it be done, according to God's word.

Angel Gabriel, Mary & Choir:

Do not be afraid (I am not afraid)
You are not alone (I am not alone)

the shadow of God will embrace you
and bring salvation to the world
(I say: Yes! let it be according to God's word.)

The Visitation & Magnificat

Heidi Liz Johnson, soloist
COTV Choir

Elizabeth

You are blessed among women!
Blessed is the fruit the fruit of your womb
I am blessed by your visit
The bearer of God's love comes to me.

Elizabeth & Choir

The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ear
the hope in my womb, my baby started a cheer!
Blessed! Blessed! Blessed are you!
Blessed! Blessed! Blessed the one who believed!
The one who said: Yes!
The one who believed and said: Yes! to God.

Mary, Elizabeth & Choir

O Mary, shout for joy (4x)

My Spirit is Rejoicing, shout for joy!
Rejoicing in my Savior, shout for joy!
I will magnify and sing, shout for joy!
Praise God's name forever, shout for joy!

God is strong and mighty, shout for joy!
Lifting up the lowly, shout for joy!
Putting down the mighty, shout for joy!
bringing down the haughty shout for joy!

Bind the brokenhearted, shout for joy!
Tell it to the prisoners, shout for joy!
Bring the oil of gladness, shout for joy!
take away the mourning, shout for joy!

Scene 2: Joseph's Momentous Decision

Scene 3: The Magi come to King Herod

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

Sleeper's Awake, from Cantata BWV 140, J. S. Bach
Michael Johnson, Organ

ACT II

Scene 1: Angels Come to Shepherds

Go Tell It On the Mountain
The Sheep

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child
The Shepherds & COTV Choir

Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus, so holy meek and mild
New life, new hope, new joy he brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory"
let the heavens ring.

Scene 2: Procession to the Nativity – Celebration in Song & Dance

Away in a Manger
Choir & Congregation

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The Little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where he lay
The Little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay**

Angels We Have Heard on High
Choir & Congregation

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

We Three Kings
Choir & Congregation

**We three kings of orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Silent Night, Holy Night
Choir & Congregation

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

Sing JOY
COTV Choir & Dancers

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Sing "joy to the world" 'cause Mary had a baby, O, my Lord!
Rejoice with the angels in heaven! Glory hallelujah to the newborn King!
Sing joy! Sing joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy! Sing joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy!
Sing joy!

BLESSING THE WORLD

Laylat al-Milad
(The Night Before Christmas)

Lay - lat al - Mi - lad yum - ma-ha-l-ugh - dou,
On this Christ - mas_ Eve ha - tred has no room,

Lay - lat al - Mi - lad tuz - hi-ru-l - ar - du,
On this Christ-mas Eve Earth can fi - nally bloom,

Lay - lat - al - Mi - lad tud - fa-nou-l-har - bu
On this Christ-mas Eve war comes to an end,

Lay - lat al - Mi - lad yan - bu-tou-l-hub - bou.
On this Christ-mas Eve love is born a - gain.

POSTLUDE

Variations on Joy to the World
Michael Johnson, Organ

We have Ministers of Care available if you need to talk or pray with someone after worship. Sarah Capers is on-site and will be up front near the altar. Rhonda Wade is online. Just type "CARE" in the chat to be connected in a private Zoom breakout room.

**ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN A CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
IN THE GYM FOLLOWING THE PAGEANT.**

As you leave today, please help us recycle by placing your bulletins in the last row.

Pageant Cast

Choreographed and directed by Martha Chapman & Maura Burns
Additional choreography by the dancers
Tap Choreography by Annie Meyer-Walsh
Innkeeper Family scenes by Paul Pillitteri & Katie Braden
Liturgical Writing: Katie Reimer, Jeff Wells, Jorge Lockward, Alexis Lillie

Innkeeper – Paul Pillitteri
Angel Gabriel – Apollonia Holzer
Cousin / Narrator – Katie Braden
Baby Jesus – Liev Moore
Mary - Aliyah Miller
Joseph - Duane Moore
Elizabeth - Maura Burns
Zechariah - Martine Mallary

Dancers:

Maura Elizabeth Burns
Martha Chapman
Megan Haungs
Apollonia Holzer
Elizabeth Levy
Martine Mallary
Aliyah Miller
Jeana Musacchio
Aza Prem Charu

Tap Dancing Sheep:

Shelby Dennis
Annie Meyer-Walsh
Seneca Meyer-Walsh
Katie Reimer

Angel to Joseph:

Paul Pillitteri

Child Dancers:

Annabelle Figueroa
Anton Figueroa
Annaís Jiménez Leacock
Kimanni Jiménez Leacock
Charlotte McGuire
Catherine McGuire
Liam Moore
Junia Waggoner

Narrator for Angel Gabriel Scene:

Sarah Capers

Shepherds:

Adie Adeel
Amari
Alexis Lillie
Calvin Miller
Jemel Williams

Angel to the Shepherds:

Diane Barclay

Magi:

Katie Braden
Dwight Campbell
Lauren Hughes
Joy Sanjek

King Herod:

Sam Winfrey

Herod's Counselors:

Jeana Musacchio
Megan Haungs

Herod's Guards:

Selassie Turner
Aliyah Miller

INSTRUMENTS:

Jim O'Connor, trumpet
Matthew Willis, saxophone
Matt McDonald, trombone
Michael Johnson, organ
Jorge Lockward, piano
Dave Epohross, bass
Juan Felipe Mayorga, drums
Rafael Natera, percussion

WORSHIP HOSTS

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

Altar Design: John Flake

Advent Candle Lighting: The Morant-Quintero Family

PowerPoint Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

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

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: Sarah Capers and Rhonda Wade

Sound Engineer: Caitlin Montclare

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

CREDITS

Cover Image: *Nativity Three*, by Kate Cosgrove (katecosgrove.com),
Permission requested

O Come All Ye Faithful

W: attributed to John Francis Wade;
Eng. trans. Frederick Oakeley alt.
M: ADESTE FIDELES. Descant by David Willcox.

Joy Will Find a Way

W & M: Paul Pillitteri
© 2020 Paul Pillitteri. Used by permission.

The Annunciation (from the Cantata: Gran Luz Brilló)

W & M: Rafael D. Grullón. Eng. trans. by Jorge Lockward
© 1973 Rafael D. Grullón

The Visitation

W: Jorge A. Lockward (based on Luke 1:42-45)
M: Jorge A. Lockward
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worship. For other uses, please contact jorgelockward@yahoo.com

Oh Mary, Shout for Joy!

W & M: African-American spiritual
arr. Jorge A. Lockward
Arr. © 2022 Jorge A. Lockward,
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Go Tell It on the Mountain

M: African-American spiritual

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

W & M: African-American spiritual
arr. Mark Hayes

Away in a Manger

W: Author unknown
M: James R. Murray

Angels We Have Heard on High

W: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus* (Luke 2:6-20)
M: French carol melody

We Three Kings

W: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (Matthew 2:1-12)
M: John H. Hopkins

Silent Night

W: Joseph Mohr, trans. John F. Young
M: Franz Gruber

Sing Joy!

W: Isaac Watts, alt. additional text by Joel Raney
M: George Frideric Handel, arr. Joel Raney, orch. Ed Hogan

Laylat al-Milad (The Night Before Christmas)

W & M: Mansour Labaki (Lebanon)
Eng. trans. by Jorge Lockward
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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 17– Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship and Christmas Pageant (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
December 18– Monday	6:30pm	Cantico Nuevo Choir rehearsal
December 19 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm 7:00pm	Red Door Place: Food Pantry Roots (via Zoom)
December 20 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30 pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal Bible Study
December 21 – Thursday	6:30pm-8:30pm	Dance Prayer
December 23 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	Red Door Place: Community Meal
December 24– Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:30pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Christmas Eve service (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Healing Conversations

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.



CLOTHING DRIVE December- January

For the month of December and January, we will be collecting clothing donations for several organizations where Church of the Village members work or have ties. We are seeking: - Donations of *new* socks and underwear for men in all sizes - Donations of *new* winter clothing items for men, women, and children - Donations of *new* winter coats for men, women, and children You can bring these donations to worship on Sundays through December and January. (If you have gently used and / or additional items in all sizes, we are happy to take those donations for our community closet on an ongoing basis as well.)



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.



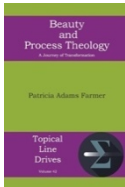
THE ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP 1st Sundays after worship

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 TO THE RED DOOR PLACE, 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 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 ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons. We encourage you to read and share them with others.