

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

December 18, 2022 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

17th Annual Christmas Pageant



Love Will Not Fail: The Story of Christmas

SONG OF ENTRANCE

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.

Come to be our peace, O Jesus, come and teach us how to live. In the midst of pain and struggle be the balm that brings relief When despair attempts to break us, light your fire within our hearts. When our souls become discouraged, be the dream that love would start.

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & OPENING PRAYER

Love Will Not Fail

Love will not fail no, love will not fail. Though hatred and hopelessness seem to prevail, no, love will not fail; love, love will prevail.

Today, we light the candle of Love.

The candle that reveals the very essence of God,
which humans saw more fully after centuries of wandering in wonder of what matters most.

This candle is what warms and lights every situation,
no matter how dire or desperate.

It is the Light that conquers the shadows of dark hatred.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Script developed by Marisa Kreinbihl with Jorge Lockward, Alexis Lillie, and Martha Chapman

ACT I

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

The Annunciation
Isaac Ellis & Isabel Mareş, 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 Michelle Trinidad, 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

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night Isabel Mareş, soloist

O Holy Night!

The stars are brightly shining.

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! Oh night divine, oh night when Christ was born! Oh night divine, oh night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another.
His law is love and his gospel is peace
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother
And in his name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name

ACT II

Scene 1: Angels Come to Shepherds

Happy Birthday Jesus
The Sheep

Go Tell It on the Mountain
The Shepherds

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful Choir & Congregation

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!

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.

Betelehemu COTV Choir

Betelehemu!
Awa yi o ri Baba gbojule. Awa yi o ri baba fehenti.
Nibo labi Jesu, nibo lagbe bii
Betelehemu ilu ara, nibe labi Baba o daju.
Iyin, Iyin, Iyin, nifuno,
Adupe fun o, Adupe fun o jooni, Baba oloreo
Iyin fun o Baba, Iyin fun o Baba, Iyin, fun o Ba ba anu, Baba toda wasi.

English translation Bethlehem!

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.

We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon

Where was Jesus born? Where was he born?

Bethlehem, the city of wonder.

That is where the Father was born for sure.

Praise, praise, praise be to God.

We thank you, we thank you for this day, gracious Father.

Praise, praise, praise be to you, merciful Father.

BLESSING

*CLOSING SONG

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! God's Love is come:
let all their praises bring!
Let every heart prepare, make room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the Earth! God's justice reigns!

Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; God's love has come to stay to show and make a way 'til all have been made One, 'till all have been made One, 'til all, 'til all have been made One.

PAGEANT CAST

Choreographed, written, and directed by Martha Chapman Additional Choreography: Maura Burns, Apollonia Holzer, Aliyah Miller Tap Choreography by Megan Haungs Innkeeper Family scenes by Paul Pillitteri & Katie Braden Liturgical Writing: Katie Reimer, Jeff Wells, Jorge Lockward

> Innkeeper – Paul Pillitteri **Angel Gabriel** – Maura Elizabeth Burns Cousin / Narrator – Katie Braden Baby Jesus - Mary Woehr Mary - Aliyah Miller Joseph - Dwight Campbell Elizabeth - Apollonia Holzer **Zechariah** - Martine Mallary

Dancers:

Maura Elizabeth Burns Martha Chapman Megan Huangs Apollonia Holzer Elizabeth Levy Martine Mallary Jeana Musacchio Aliyah Miller

Alfida Figueroa Katie Reimer Bailey Roach

Child Dancers:

Alastair Echevarria Annabelle Figueroa

Tap Dancing Sheep:

INSTRUMENTS:

Jim O'Connor, trumpet Matthew Willis, saxophone Noah Bless, trombone Jorge Lockward, piano Dave Epohross, bass Juan Felipe Mayorga, drums Rafael Natera, percussion

Liam Moore Juniper Rajwani Marigold Rajwani Junia Waggoner

Shepherds: Alexis Lillie Danilo Guzman Calvin Miller

Jennifer Pinkney-Pastor Ted Warner

Sheep Dogs:

Reba, Oreo, Hansel, Gretel & Windsor

Angel to Joseph: Helen Peterson

Angel to the Shepherds:

Diane Barclay

Magi:

Katie Braden Sarah Capers Isaac Ellis Jeff Wells

King Herod: Sam Winfrey

Herod's Guard & Counselors:

Jeana Musacchio Megan Huangs Maura Elizabeth Burns

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

Chapman

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

PowerPoint Design: Marisa Kreinbihl & Katie Reimer

Vocalists: Diane Barclay, Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Isaac Ellis, Alfida Figueroa, Mayra Francisco, Reyno Francisco, Rafael Natera,

Isabel Mares, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Michelle Trinidad, Suzie Wilder

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman Zoom Chat: Gabriel Borges

CREDITS

Cover Image:

From the "Yang ya Utaw si Manggob" (When Manggob Was Born) series, By Federico Dominguez, Permission requested

Come To Be Our Hope

W: Jaci Maraschin M: HYFRYDOL Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, Brazil Words © Jaci Maraschin Music © Marcílio de Oliveira Filho. Used by permission

Hope Will Not Fail

W: David Bjorling (USA) M: Mark Miller (USA) © 2022 GIA Publications, Inc. Onelicense, net # A-725898

The Annunciation (from the Cantata: Gran Luz Brilló)

W & M: Rafael D. Grullón © 1973 Rafael D. Grullón

The Visitation

W: Jorge A. Lockward (based on Luke 1:42-45)
M: Jorge A. Lockward
© 2022 Jorge A. Lockward, Permission granted for noncommercial use in 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, Permission granted for non-commercial use in worship. For other uses, please contact jorgelockward@yahoo.com

O Holy Night

W: Placide Cappeau, Eng. trans. John S. Dwight M: Adolphe Adam

O Come, All Ye Faithful

W: John F. Wade; trans. by Frederick Oakeley M: John F. Wade; harm. from *Collections of Motetts or Antiphons*

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

Betelehemu

W & M: Nigerian Carol Via Olatunji and Wendall Whalum arr. Barrington Brooks

Joy to the World

W: Isaac Watts, alt.

M: Lowell Mason (arr. from G.F. Handel)

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

The Church of the Village is a progressive and radically inclusive community that is committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression. The foundation for all of our theology and practice is Jesus' instruction to "love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." We seek to build a world overflowing with justice, mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our church building stands on ancestral lands of the Lenape people. The colonizers who stripped Indigenous peoples of their lands used Christianity to justify their actions. We are beneficiaries of a history of appropriation, slavery, and forced migration. We repent and commit to being a community that seeks to repair the harm done to Indigenous peoples and build new pathways to love and justice.

We celebrate human diversity – welcoming people of every color, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. We strongly support environmental justice and stewardship of the Earth. We believe many roads lead to God and are respectful of a diversity of spiritual paths. We believe our community flourishes with many points of view, opportunities for creative expression, and participatory worship.

To learn more about The Church of the Village, please complete our <u>Virtual Welcome Card</u>.

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u>.

Please follow us on Facebook (<u>Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage</u>), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our <u>YouTube channel</u> 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 18 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Annual Christmas Pageant Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
December 20 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
December 21 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
December 23 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
December 24 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm 5:30pm	TRDP: Community Meal Christmas Eve Worship
December 25 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

WE ARE FAMILY

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission Stewardship Campaign

Families give support, and families need support. Here at The Church of the Village, we choose to be family for one another, and we each strive to do our part. Every member of The Church of the Village family has gifts to bring.

The practice of regular giving in any amount recognizes God's abundance and strengthens our family. It builds our relationships with one another and expresses our trust in God's love. It does not matter how large or small the contribution, each donation adds to the flourishing of the family! What's important is that we do this together, with each family member doing their part as they are able. As we hear in 2 Corinthians 8:12:

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

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

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT** from your bank account to COTV. This option includes no fees for the giver or the church. You can set this up directly through your bank for one-time gifts/payments or recurring gifts/payments to COTV. For assistance with this process, please contact giving@churchofthevillage.org.
- VANCO: <u>Vanco</u>'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want.
- CHECK: you can send a check payable to "The Church of the Village," and mail it to: Church of the Village PO Box 167 New York, NY 10113

For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email giving@churchofthevillage.org. Please note - emails to this address should be about how we can help you set up your giving process but should NOT include any specific information about pledge amounts, gift amounts, or any other confidential information from the individual sending the message.

Thank you for being a part of the family of The Church of the Village and supporting the work and ministry of this community!

ENJOY OUR OPEN HOUSE

1:30pm - 5:30pm following the Christmas Pageant

After the Christmas Pageant, head uptown with Pastor Jeff and Diane to be with friends and enjoy cookies, hot apple cider, and other libations and refreshment. We will sing Christmas carols, too! The address is 176 W. 87th Street, Apt. 10D. It is just east of the corner of Amsterdam Ave. and 87th St. If you feel inspired to make and share your own homemade cookies or other desserts, please bring them!

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.

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

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday 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.

COTY ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET.

Join us via Zoom!

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212 Passcode: fitness

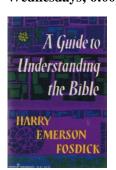
L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)

2nd Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship



Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! We will meet the second Sunday of each month after church for City Adventures — outdoor explorations around the neighborhood and times for connection. All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information, please email PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join Us via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our current Bible Study is A Guide to Understanding the Bible by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Harry Emerson Fosdick presents a study of the development of Biblical ideas. We will study the ideas developed by Fosdick (Idea of God; Idea of Man; Idea of Right and Wrong; Idea of Suffering; Idea of Fellowship with God; Idea of Hospitality). This book presents a different perspective for studying scripture.

We would be delighted to have you join us. Everyone is Welcome.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. 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; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Appointments are available via the <u>Plentiful App</u> (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 OR code for scanning.

<u>If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry</u>. Note: Missed appointments can be rescheduled to a later open slot or the following Tuesday. If you have any questions call 347-497-9718 and ask for Teresa.

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 <u>VANCO</u>'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

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

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the 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.

CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 PROTECTION POLICY

Updated September 23, 2022



From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Church of the Village has been diligent about protecting everyone connected to our church community. We have followed guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City and State of New York, as well as those shared by the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our leadership has stayed on top of new developments and adjusted our policies periodically to fit evolving conditions.

We recognize that for our members, supporters, visitors, and staff who are in proximity to New York City or visit our building, the status of the pandemic has shifted dramatically. The rates of infection, hospitalizations, and especially deaths have fallen to very low levels. This does not mean they cannot go back up and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, mask requirements have been lifted for most public spaces, including public transportation in NYC.

Therefore, we have decided to lift our own mask requirement for entry to our church building. This applies to staff as well as members and to groups that rent or use space in our building.

We continue to strongly recommend that everyone be vaccinated and boosted to the highest extent for which you are eligible. The most recent bivalent booster is available to anyone age 12 or older (Pfizer) or 18 and older (Moderna). The bivalent boosters protect against the original Covid-19 virus strain and provide stronger protection against Omicron, which is the most widespread and transmissible variant. To find a location and schedule your vaccination or booster anywhere in the United States, <u>click here!</u> This is not for your protection only, but for the well-being of our community, our city, and the country.

Also, we strongly encourage those persons at higher risk for infection or hospitalization – especially those with underlying health conditions – to continue to take all appropriate safety measures like masking and social distancing. All of us need to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance about self-isolation and testing (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).

Finally, while not yet widespread, we encourage everyone to be alert to the rising number of cases of Monkeypox. Among those most at-risk are some members of the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV. However, this virus is not limited by gender or sexuality and can spread to anyone, anywhere, through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. The Human Rights Campaign provides excellent resources on their "What You Need to Know" web page.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

During the Coronavirus outbreak and beyond, we want to make sure our members and supporters know how to reach key staff and leaders in the Church of the Village.

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u> 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 Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: <u>Teresa@churchofthevillage.org</u> Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5, (347) 497-9718

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com



