



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470  
[www.churchofthevillage.org](http://www.churchofthevillage.org) • [facebook.com/churchofthevillage](https://facebook.com/churchofthevillage)  
[office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:office@churchofthevillage.org)

**April 21, 2024 • Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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



***The Gift of Doubt***

## 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 & SHARING GOD’S PEACE

*Good to Be Alive*

**It’s so good to be, to be here all together  
It’s so good to be, so good to be alive  
Thank you, God, for this goodness.  
So good to be, to be alive.**

We have been called to be an Easter people  
to be a sign of what is yet to be.  
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:  
Thank you, God, we’re on our way!

We won’t ignore what is happening all around us  
and won’t be bound by the shackles of despair.  
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:  
Thank you, God, we’re on our way!

## WELCOME

## PRAYER

# WE PROCLAIM

## CALL TO LISTEN

*Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

Come, come, who - ev - er\_ you\_ are,\_  
wor-ship-per, wan-der-er,\_ lov - er\_ of leav - ing\_  
Ours is not a ca - ra - van\_ of des - pair.  
Though you have brok-en your vows\_ a thou - sand times,  
Come, come a - gain come!

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### **John 20: 19-31** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week,  
the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said,  
“Peace be with you.”

Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus,  
who said to them again,

“Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I’m sending you.”

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,  
“Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas  
—nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin”—was absent when Jesus came.

The other disciples kept telling him, “We’ve seen Jesus!”

Thomas’ answer was,

“I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks

and my hand into the spear wound.”  
On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room,  
and this time Thomas was with them.  
Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying,  
“Peace be with you.”  
Then, to Thomas, Jesus said,  
“Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side.  
Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!”  
Thomas said in response,  
“My Savior and my God!”  
Jesus then said,  
“You’ve become a believer  
because you saw me.  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—  
in the presence of the disciples.  
But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by  
believing you may have life in Jesus’ Name.

The Word of Life and Salvation.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **MESSAGE**

*The Gift of Doubt*  
Pastor Jeff Wells  
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

## **A TIME OF SHARING**

**Has your attitude toward uncertainty and doubt changed over time?**

**Has your faith and understanding been reshaped by embracing doubt?**

## **WE RESPOND**

# WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

## *Taste and See*

**Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of God's love.  
O taste and see, taste and see  
the goodness of God's love, of God's love.**

1. I will bless God's name at all times.  
Praise shall always be on my lips;  
my soul shall glory in the God's love;  
for God has been so good to me.

2. Glorify God's name with me.  
Together let us all praise God's name.  
I called on God, who answered me;  
from all my troubles I was set free.

3. Worship God, all you people.  
You'll want for nothing if you ask.  
Taste and see that God is good;  
in God we place all our trust.

## INVITATION & RELEASE

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Pastor:* God be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Pastor:* Lift up your hearts!

*All:* **Our hearts are lifted!**

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to God!

*All:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Le-lo Le-lo Lai-lo (3x)**

**Lo-le Lo-le Lo-lai.**

**Holy, holy, holy,**

**God of loving pow'r.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)  
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470



## OFFERTORY

*You Are Holy, You Are Whole*

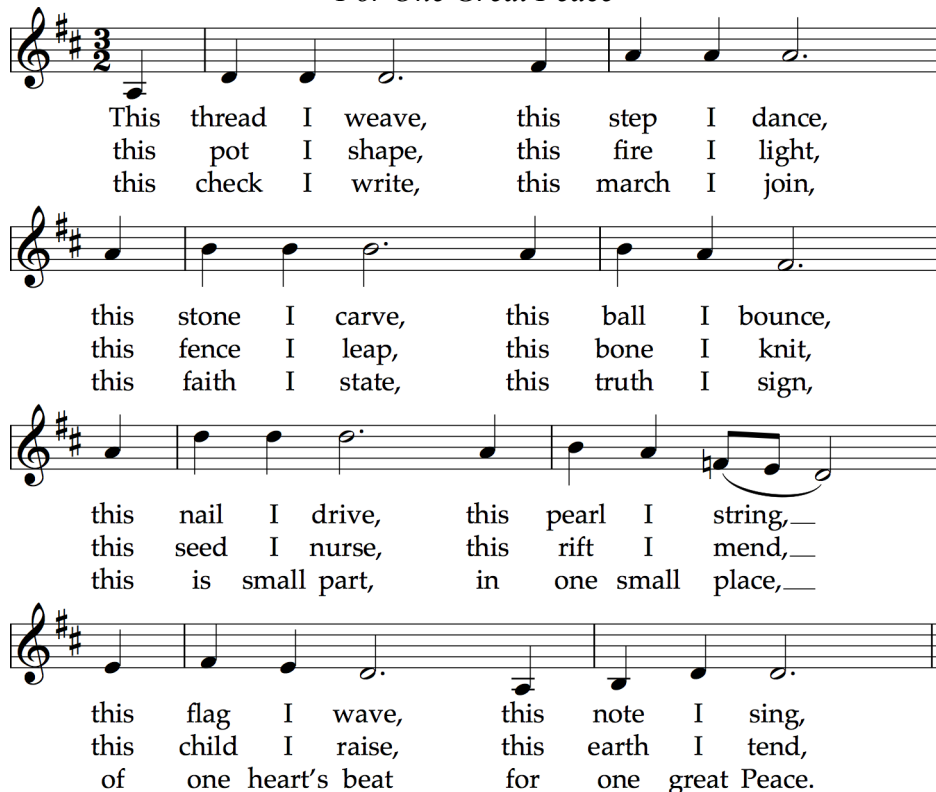
You are holy, you are whole,  
you are always evermore than we ever understand,  
you are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near,  
blessed are you coming here;  
meeting us within the storm,  
showing us the way of peace.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present,  
singing peace within the storm.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah to God!

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*For One Great Peace*



This thread I weave, this step I dance,  
this pot I shape, this fire I light,  
this check I write, this march I join,  
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,  
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,  
this faith I state, this truth I sign,  
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,—  
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,—  
this is small part, in one small place,—  
this flag I wave, this note I sing,  
this child I raise, this earth I tend,  
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

# **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

*Love Is Stronger*

**Love is stronger,  
love is so much stronger,  
Love is stronger,  
Love is stronger than hate.**

**Faith is stronger  
Faith is so much stronger  
Faith is stronger  
Faith is stronger than fear**

**Life is stronger  
Life is so much stronger  
Life is stronger  
Life is stronger than death**

## **WORSHIP HOSTS**

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

**Lector/Reader:** Becca Love

**Onsite Communion Assistant:** Ted Warner

**Online Communion:** Jim Norton

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs

**Call to Offering:** Monica Quintero

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake & Scarlett Begonia

**Visuals Design:** Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

**Organ:** Michael Johnson

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass:** Matthew Willis

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Zoom Host:** Sarah Witman

**Sound Engineer:** Maya Maldonado

**Ministers of Care:** Jim Norton (online); Monica Quintero (onsite)

## **CREDITS**

*Cover Image: iStock Image #1982396500, by leolintang, Used by permission*

### ***Good To Be Alive***

W & M: Marvin E. Swimpson

© 1987 Marvin E. Swimpson

### ***Come, Come, Whoever You Are***

W: attr. Jalal ad-Din Rumi, 1207-1273, tr. unknown

M: Jorge Lockward

*Music* © 2019 Jorge Lockward, permission granted for non-commercial use in worship.

### ***Taste and See***

W & M: James E. Moore

© 1983 GIA Publications

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### ***Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)***

W & M: Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

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### ***You Are Holy, You Are Whole***

Words and Music: Per Harling

© 1990, Augsburg Fortress Publishers

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### ***For One Great Peace***

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: Jim Strathdee

*W:* ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. *Music* © 1998 Desert Flower Music

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### ***Love Is Stronger***

W & M: Jorge A. 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](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>April 21 – Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
<b>April 23 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
<b>April 24 – Wednesday</b>	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	God After Deconstruction Choir Rehearsal
<b>April 27 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
<b>April 28 – Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet

# 2024 Stewardship Campaign

## Community, Commitment, and Courage

I give because I need to support the people and places that give me life.

I give because I gotta put my money where my mouth is...

I give because this community looks like God's Kin-dom in action to me.

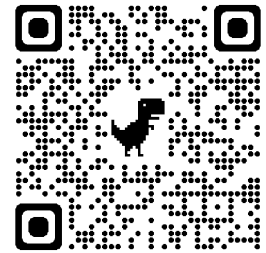
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

We, the Stewardship Team, are grateful for the many ways your commitment to our community expresses itself. In particular, we are grateful that you see financial giving as one of the ways in which you covenant with other members of this community and with the God whose love draws us together and outward to the world in which our lives are lived. As you give prayerful discernment to your gifting for 2024 – your expression of solidarity with fellow journeyers in faith – please consider the many individuals, initiatives, and hopes that reside in our congregation and give as generously as you are able.

You can express your commitment via: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>. Or, if you have questions, via: Email [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org).

As we work together to foster, support and grow, we have tried to make it easy to give. Apart from our weekly collection basket for those on site, we offer the following:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT**
- **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!*



Jason Brubaker



John Kleinig



Jorge Lockward



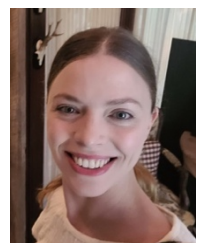
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



## EASTER IS NOT THE END!

**A new worship series: Sunday April 14 – Sunday May 19**

Jesus is risen - now what?! The post-resurrection stories of Jesus and his followers offer glimpses into this new way of living and being to which we are called. As the early Jesus communities grew and developed, they worked to make sense of how to live as the resurrected body of Christ in the world.

Stories like Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus, or of the community sharing a breakfast on the beach offer paradigms of this life to which God calls us, and that we are still working to make manifest in the world.



## GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP

**Wednesdays, \*EXTENDED THROUGH May 1\*, 6:30pm via Zoom**

During Lent, we will be offering a weekly discussion group based on the course, God After Deconstruction, created by friends of Church of the Village, Tripp Fuller and Thomas Jay Oord. Join us for a facilitated discussion led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Alexis each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30pm via Zoom. Themes include scripture, the problem of evil, faith and science, sex and gender, and

others. For more details go to [www.churchofthevillage.org/groups](http://www.churchofthevillage.org/groups) or contact Pastor Alexis at [pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org). Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062849124>

## 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](mailto:Beccalove123@gmail.com) for more info!

## HEALING CONVERSATIONS

**(Every 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

## 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

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](https://www.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.



## How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

Pastor Jeff Wells,  
Lead Pastor  
Email: [PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9;  
(917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie,  
Minister for Leadership & Congregational  
Development  
Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8;  
(719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward,  
Minister of Worship Arts  
Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)  
Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7;  
(917) 723-0169

Dwight Campbell,  
Chair, Vision & Ministry Council  
Email: [DCampbell5938@gmail.com](mailto:DCampbell5938@gmail.com)

Becca Love,  
Lay Leader  
Email: [beccalove123@gmail.com](mailto:beccalove123@gmail.com)

Monica Quintero,  
Chair, Ministers of Care  
Email: [quinteromm@gmail.com](mailto:quinteromm@gmail.com)

Alfida Figueroa,  
Chair, Worship Committee  
Email: [figueroaalfida045@gmail.com](mailto:figueroaalfida045@gmail.com)