



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

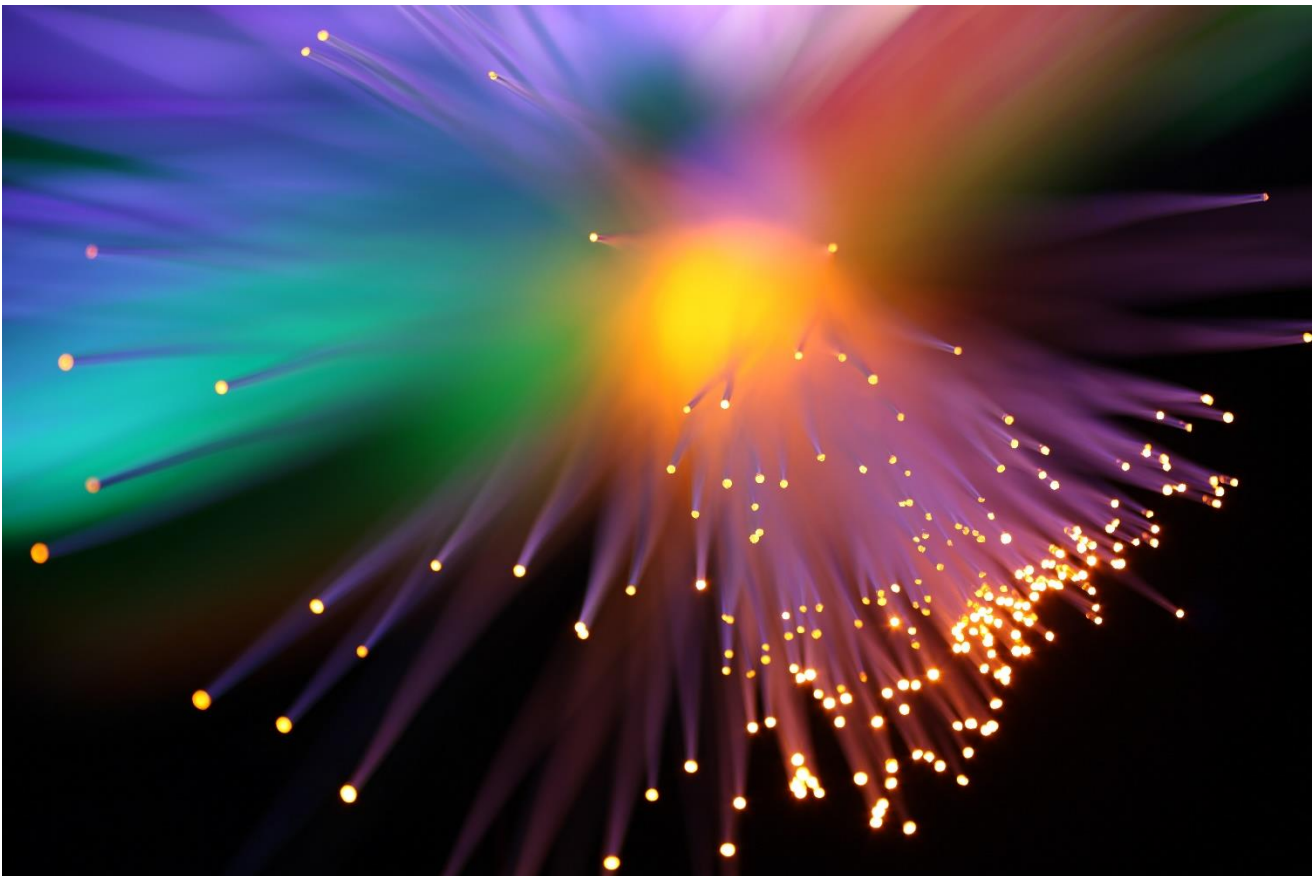
201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage
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August 15, 2021 • 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Honor the Earth / Remember George Floyd / Black Lives Matter

No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



God's Seedy Power

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

*Spirit of Gentleness**

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
young people see visions, the old clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Child of God

**No matter what people say, say or think about you,
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**No matter what the world says, says or thinks about you,
you are a Child, you are a Child of God.**

**And there is no thing or no one who can separate,
they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone,
You are family, you are meant to be, a Child, a Child of God!**

*Notes from the author, James K. Manley: After a real but perplexing “born again” experience, I determined to understand it more fully, so on sabbatical leave I studied Process Theology with John B. Cobb, Jr. at the School of Theology in Claremont, Calif. who inspired the writing of this song. Returning to Honolulu, I sang the first three verses at Waikeola Congregational UCC. A member commented that the hymn needed a fourth stanza to contemporize it. I disagreed, but after a sleepless night wrote a final verse. This is by far my most widely sung, reprinted and recorded hymn. Dedicated to my professor John Cobb, and Gene Kuehl, then Director of Pilgrim Pines Camp where I first sang “Spirit” on the mainland.

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 1:1-2, Matthew 13:1-10 (adapted from the New Revised Standard Version)

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Matthew 13:1-10

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"God's Seedy Power"

Dr. Catherine Keller

Guest preacher, Professor of Constructive Theology
at the Theological School of Drew University

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

Your Love, O God

**Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.**

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.
You leave us free to seek you or reject you,
you give us room to answer "yes" or "no."

We long for freedom where our truest being
is given hope and courage to unfold.
We seek in freedom space and scope for dreaming,
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.

But there are walls that keep us all divided;
we fence each other in with hate and war.
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison,
our pride of self, the prison coat we wear.

O judge us, God, and in your judgment free us,
and set our feet in freedom's open space;
take us as far as your compassion wanders
among the children of the human race.

INVITATION

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.
We lift them to you, Connecting Spirit.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Friends, these are gifts of God for you and for all.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome, there is healing, and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in God's love.**

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Get Together

Love is but a song we sing,
fear's the way we die.
You can make the mountains ring
or make the angels cry.
Though the bird is on the wing
and you may not know why.

*Come on, people now,
smile on your sister;
everybody get together,
try to love one another right now*

If you hear the song I sing
you will understand —
you hold the key to love and fear,
all in your trembling hand.
Just one key unlocks them both;
it's there at your command.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Draw the Circle Wide

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still!
Let this be our song: no one stands alone!
Standing side by side
draw the circle, draw the circle wide**

To join conversation with Dr. Catherine Keller
type the word "PREACHER" in capital letters into the chat.

For those who want to talk or pray with a Minister of Care, you can be in a breakout Room
one-on-one with Sarah Capers by typing "CARE" in capital letters in the chat.
(Please be aware that you may have to wait a couple minutes if someone is "in line" ahead of you.)

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts, Gabriel Borges
PowerPoint Design: Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer
Worship Leader: Gabriel Borges
Holy Communion: Pastor Alexis Lillie & Sarah Capers
Prayers of the People: John Kleinig
Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs
Minister of Care: Sarah Capers
Vocalists: Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts & Suzie Wilder
Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis
Keyboard: Jorge Lockward & Rebecca Watts
Bass: Richard Garretson
Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga
Zoom Host: Becca Love
Zoom Visual Host: Danielle Haupt
Zoom Chat Host: Maya
Usher: Sam Winfrey
Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

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merrymoonmary, Used by permission*

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

W: Fredrick Faber
M: BEACH SPRING
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Get Together

W&M: Chett Power
© 1963 IRVING MUSIC, Inc.

Draw the Circle Wide

W: Gordon Light
M: Mark Miller
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Onelicense.net # 101422

Spirit of Gentleness

W & M: James K. Manley
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Child of God

W & M: Mark A. Miller
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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

August 15 – Sunday	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women (via Zoom)
August 17 – Tuesday	3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry Process Theology: A Basic Introduction (via Zoom)
August 18 – Wednesday	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
August 20 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	NO Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
August 21 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
August 22 – Sunday	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)



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:** [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!

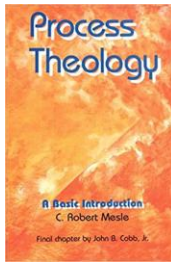
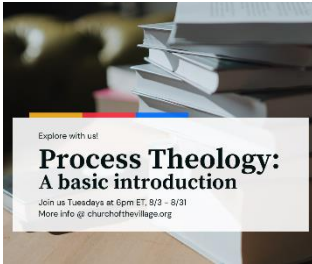
To make your pledge to this year's campaign please visit: <https://forms.gle/ApxV5fSkVBCT3Qfz7>

OUR GUEST PREACHER: DR. CATHERINE KELLER



Catherine Keller is Professor of Constructive Theology at the Theological School of Drew University, where she has trained ministers and theologians for over three decades. She writes quite a bit. *On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process*, offers an accessible introduction to process theology. And just out is *Facing Apocalypse: Climate, Democracy and Other Last Chances*. She is a member of Saint Paul and Saint Andrew UMC, right uptown.

PROCESS THEOLOGY: A Basic Introduction Small Group - Tuesdays, 6pm ET, 8/3 – 8/31



Textbook available via [Amazon](#).

Join us via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81782257298?pwd=c3pwK1pXRXBhT2Q2UkpsQ09UYTBhQT09>

GOD: A JOURNEY OF BECOMING A New Worship Series



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All of us have been given visions and definitions of who God is and how God works - even if you don't believe in god, you have an idea of what you don't believe in. In many ways, the "god question" is always before us.

Some ways of understanding God prove helpful in certain periods of our lives, and less helpful in others. Some conceptualizations of God are just plain toxic! As we grow and change, exploring this ever-evolving vision of God is integral to our journey of life.

Join us as we seek an image of the divine, that actually fits with our lived experience, that leads to life, and that resonates with scripture. Join us Online: Sundays at 10:30am ET / 7:30am PT, August 1 through September 5.

August 22

Rev. Jeff Wells,
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

August 29

Rev. Alexis Lillie,
Minister for Leadership &
Congregational Development,
Church of the Village

September 5

Rev. Jeff Wells,
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

IN THE WAY OF JESUS: AN ADVENTURE OF IMAGINATION AND COMMITMENT

A New Worship Series



What guides and organizes your life? What are the values and dreams that fire your imagination and inspire your commitments? Join us as theologian, philosopher, and environmentalist, Dr. John Cobb, launches our new worship series. We will explore how being a disciple of Jesus can inspire, guide, and center our choices in ways that lead to the wellbeing of all creation.

September 12, 19, & 26

Dr. John Cobb

October 3

Rev. Jeff Wells

October 10

Rev. Alexis Lillie

TUESDAY FITNESS CLASS

Tuesday mornings

COTV Online Fitness is on hiatus for the summer. For more information please contact COTV Member Lina.

DECOMPRESS AND SHARE CALL

Is on summer hiatus. We will return this fall. For more information please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday mornings

Together in Prayer is on hiatus for the month of August.

Our weekly prayer group includes an inspirational reading, time to support one another, and prayers for ourselves, others, and events in the world. We gather by conference call Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15am. For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at smcapers99@gmail.com.

AGAPE SANGHA MEDITATION GROUP

Is on summer hiatus. For more information about Agape Sangha Meditation please contact Joy Sanjek at joyfulwork47@gmail.com.

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

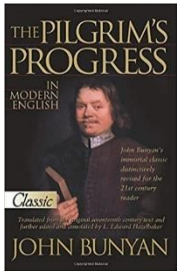
Every Thursday starting September 2 at 8:15pm ET

Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday (beginning in September) via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information please email PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join Us via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



The Pilgrim's Progress has been called “the greatest allegory ever written, now translated into modern English and edited by L. Edward Hazelbaker. We will follow Pilgrim as he makes a journey to the “Celestial City”. Each week we will experience with Pilgrim the challenges and joys that encounters along the way. We will compare and discuss our own Christian journeys with those of Pilgrim’s.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join. Facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: **713 063 594** Passcode: **10011**

ROOTS: A SMALL GROUP FOR CONNECTION AND BELONGING

October 12 - November 19th



We are born with a longing for connection and belonging. We can only blossom and flourish emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually when we make conscious efforts to be curious about each other. This small group fosters deeper roots in our community by bringing people together to learn each other’s names, life stories, histories, traditions, emotions, personalities, struggles and dreams. Those who engage are asked to make a commitment to the entire 6 weeks (October 12 - November 19).

If you have questions, reach out to Roots Facilitator [Alfida Figueroa](#).

THE RED DOOR PLACE (HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED)

(Note: There will be No Community Meal on Saturday, Sept. 4)



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

Food Pantry: Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30pm. No early line up permitted before 3pm.

Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.

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

THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!

The huge increase in unemployment and homelessness means that The Red Door Place has gone from providing food for 1,700 persons before the pandemic, to 2,500 in April, to now more than *4,000 persons every week*. TRDP has plenty of volunteers. **What we need is money.** We are desperately trying to keep enough food coming in to give out to every guest. TRDP is one of only a few emergency food programs in Manhattan still giving out a significant amount of food to each guest at the pantry on Tuesdays and still offering a hot meal on Saturdays.

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

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

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

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

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God.

If you would like to join the Prayer Partners team, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

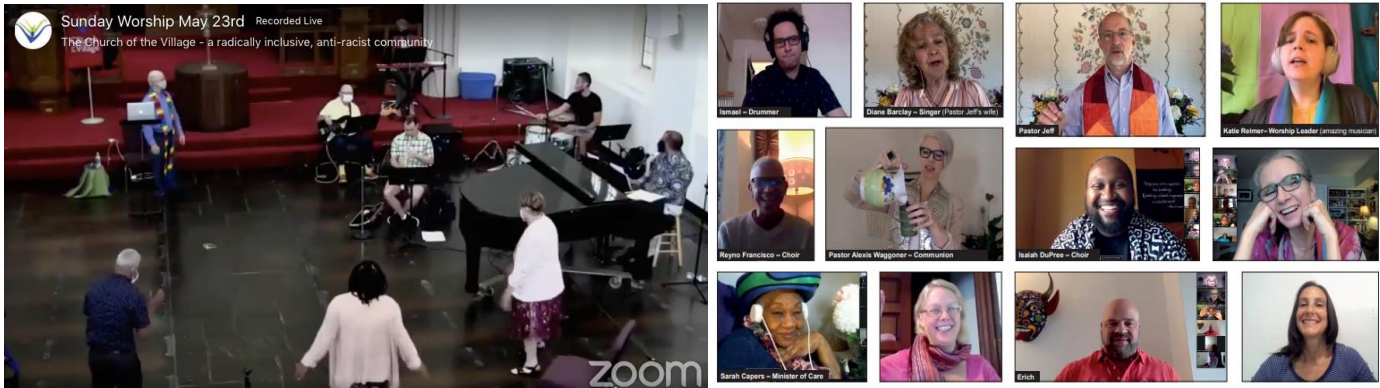
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

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.

OUR ADVENTURE IN ONLINE-ONSITE COMMUNITY



On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 – for the first time since the pandemic shutdown in March 2020 – a group of leaders and artists led portions of worship from the church building in Manhattan (New York City). On April 25, a larger group gathered onsite to celebrate the Baptism of Robert Jairo Morant. On May 23, 2021, a small cohort of members of Church of the Village came to the building to participate in worship. These developments are very exciting and meaningful for those who had been away from this beloved space for more than a year. They were also meaningful for those online who have never and may not ever step foot in the building.

With the increase of cases and hospitalizations due to the Covid-19 Delta variant, we do not know when we will open to the public. We are doing all we can to keep everyone on-site as safe as possible.

As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. This is only the beginning and is part of a much bigger vision for our community.

We are not “re-opening” because the Church of the Village never closed – we only shifted our ministry to be completely online for a year. As the world slowly emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, there’s been no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic. Our reality and reach have changed dramatically in a year. We continue to attract worshippers and receive new members from across the U.S. and beyond its borders, as well as from the New York City area. **We are on a journey and living into becoming a fully online and onsite community.**

People are attracted to the Church of the Village because of our progressive theology, radical inclusivity, extravagant welcome, and focus on social, economic, and climate justice. Many who worship with us or decide to join cannot find this sort of faith community where they live. We believe it is God’s desire that each of us have the chance to have as full a life as possible by seeking the common good in healthy community together. So we are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this vision for online and onsite community, we can re-imagine John Wesley’s vision and say that the whole world, literally, can be our parish.

We encourage you to participate in as many online and onsite opportunities in the Church of the Village community as possible. Consider how you can contribute to the thriving of our lives together. If you want more information on how to connect with Church of the Village, contact [Pastor Jeff Wells](#) or [Pastor Alexis Lillie](#).



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.10

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place (aka Hope for Our Neighbors in Need)

Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: livnyc@gmail.com

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: reimerkatie@gmail.com