



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
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September 26, 2021 • 18th 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



***The Personal Experience
of Discipleship***

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

“Recognize what is in your sight, and that which is hidden from you will become plain to you.
For there is nothing hidden which will not become manifest.”
*Gospel of Thomas #5

“The kin-dom of God will not come by waiting for it. It will not be a matter of saying ‘here it is’ or ‘there it is.’
Rather, the kin-dom of God is spread out upon the earth, and people do not see it.”
Gospel of Thomas #113

“If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you.
If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.”
Gospel of Thomas #70

Open Our Eyes

It's so easy to close our eyes
So very tempting to hide or flee
But we cannot turn away, the truth before us lies
The vision we must see

*Open our eyes to see inside ourselves
Open our eyes to see beyond our fears
Open our eyes to see what's hard to see
Open our eyes to the vision that can be*

So very easy to hide in a cocoon
Thinking we know all there is to know
Yet the Spirit leads us onward, outside our solitude
Toward the vision we must go

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

When the Spirit in Me

**When the Spirit in me sees the Spirit in you (2x)
It's so easy, so easy, so easy, so easy to love//**

*The Gospel of Thomas is an extra-canonical gospel that collects sayings of Jesus.
It was discovered near Nag Hammadi, Egypt, in December 1945.

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Listen

**Listen to the song of the wind (3x)
Listen, God is singing, God is singing**

Listen to the call deep within...

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Mark 1:16-20 (The Inclusive Bible)

This is what the sovereign YHWH showed me: God was standing by a wall, a plumb line in hand. “What do you see, Amos?” YHWH asked me. “A plumb line,” I said. Then God said to me, “Look, I am going to measure my people Israel by plumb line. I will no longer excuse their atrocities. The high places of Isaac are going to be ruined, the sanctuaries of Israel destroyed. With sword in hand, I will attack the house of Jeroboam.”

Amaziah the priest of Bethel then sent the following message to Jeroboam ruler of Israel: “Amos is plotting against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The country can no longer tolerate what he keeps saying. For this is what he says, ‘Jeroboam is going to die by the sword, and Israel is going into exile from its land.’”

Amaziah told Amos, “Go away, seer! Go back to the land of Judah. earn your bread there. Do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel. This is the royal sanctuary, the national temple!”

Amos answered Amaziah: “I am no prophet. nor am I the disciple of a prophet. I was a shepherd, and gathered figs for food. But YHWH took me from herding the flock, and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Amos 7:7-15 (The Inclusive Bible)

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind.” They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus. Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

This is the Word that Calls and Reimagines.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Personal Experience of Discipleship

Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb Jr.

Founding Co-Director of the Center for Process Studies and Process & Faith

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF HEALING

There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

SONG OF PRAISE

Laudate omnes gentes

**Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum
Sing praise, all you people, sing praises unto God
Alaben pueblos todos, alaben al Señor**

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-26 (New Revised Standard Version)

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,
or about your body, what you will wear.

Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

SILENCE

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus the Christ

**Jesus the Christ, your light shines within us
let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Let my heart always welcome your love.**

INTERCESSIONS

Kyrie eleison

SONG OF HOPE

Nada te turbe/Nothing can trouble

**Nada te turbe, nada te espante;
quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante:
solo Dios basta.**

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
God alone fills us.**

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Oh! Had I Jubal's Lyre
Matthew Willis, Soprano Saxophone

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Guide My Feet

**Guide my feet while I run this race :|
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Stand by me...

Hold my hand...

To join conversation with Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb Jr.
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 Sam Winfrey 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, Alfida Figueroa

PowerPoint Design: Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: Diane Barclay

Call to Offering: Monica Quintero

Dance Ministry: Martine Mallary

Ministers of Care: *On-site:* Virginia Riker & Sam Winfrey; *Online:* TBD & TBD

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Jorge Lockward, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Zoom Visual Host: Danielle Haupt

Zoom Chat Host: Gabriel Borges

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

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Open Our Eyes

W: J. Lockward, K. Reimer, R. Watts

M: Rebecca Watts

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When the Spirit in Me (The Jesus in Me)

W & M: Anonymous.

Lyric adaptation by Jorge Lockward

There Is a Balm in Gilead

W & M: African American Spiritual

Laudate Omnes Gentes

W: Psalm 117:1

M: Taizé Community

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Kyrie 9

W: Liturgical text

M: Taizé Community

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Jesus the Christ

W & M: Taizé Community

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Nada te turbe / Nothing can trouble

W: St. Teresa of Ávila, Eng. trans. Taizé Community

M: Taizé Community

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Oh! Had I Jubal's Lyre

M: George Frideric Handel

Guide My Feet

W & M: African American Spiritual

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

September 26 – Sunday	10:30am 12:30pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Exploring Faith (via Zoom)
September 28 – Tuesday	3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry QUESTIONS (via Zoom)
September 29 – Wednesday	6:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
September 30 – Thursday	8:15pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
October 1 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
October 2 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
October 3 – Sunday	10:30am 12:30pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care (via Zoom)



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>

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.

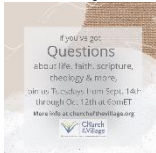
September 26
Dr. John Cobb Jr.

October 3
Rev. Jeff Wells

October 10
Rev. Alexis Lillie

QUESTIONS

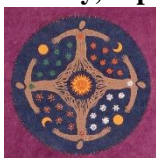
Tuesdays, Sept. 14 – Oct 12., 6pm



If you're seeking further space to explore new ways of belief and practice, and ask big questions in a loving and supportive context, join us Tuesdays between September 14th and October 12th at 6pm ET. Specific direction of the group will be determined by the members in our first meeting, so come with your ideas, suggestions, and uncertainties as we foster an open space to inquire honestly. Join us via [Zoom](#)!

EXPLORING FAITH

Sunday, September 26; 12:30pm (following worship)

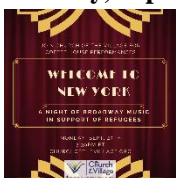


Do you want to learn more about the Church of the Village? Are you feeling called to belong to this amazing community? Please join us on Zoom after worship Sunday, September 26. This will be a great opportunity to learn more and get to know others who are new to the Church of the Village. Contact Pastor Alexis Lillie or Pastor Jeff Wells for more information.

Join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82218263809?pwd=S25ucFB2YzRBSmE3Q2Q5dnc1VmxQZz09>

COFFEE HOUSE: WELCOME TO NEW YORK

Monday, September 27; 7:30pm



We hope you'll save the date for a night of Broadway music, performances, and social justice education around the issue of refugee resettlement.

The event will take place on Monday, September 27th at 7:30pm.
More info is [here](#), and further detail will be shared in the coming days!

TUESDAY FITNESS CLASS

Tuesday mornings

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

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday mornings; 9:30am

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; 8:15pm ET

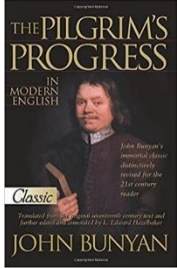


Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

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
Tuesdays, October 12 - November 16, 7pm ET



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](#).

To sign up: visit <https://forms.gle/agcmg9De2eyU3X4u9>. Sign up closes Sunday, October 10, 2021.

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



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.

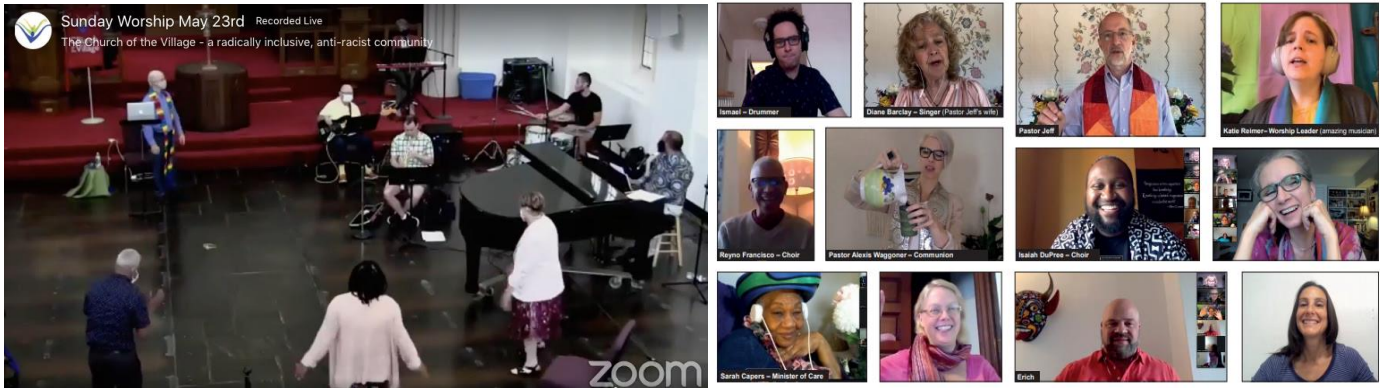
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshipping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos.

SERMON ARCHIVE

If you missed worship or want to read the sermon again, we post many of our past Sunday sermon manuscripts and worship bulletins on our website at ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons. We encourage you to read and share them with others.

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