



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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**October 17, 2021 • 21st 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**



***Asking Hard Questions  
of God and the Bible***

# WE GATHER

## PRELUDE

## CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling,  
in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ.

*Ephesians 6:5*

Let a woman learn in silence with full submission.  
I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man;  
she is to keep silent.

*1 Timothy 2:11-12*

Thus says the Lord of hosts,  
‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did in opposing the Israelites  
when they came up out of Egypt.

Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have;  
do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant,  
ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

*1 Samuel 15:2-3*

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood,  
and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

*Hebrews 9:22*

*Grant Us Mercy  
(call and echo)*

**Grant us mercy  
Guide our feet  
Give us wisdom  
Guide our feet  
Give us courage  
Guide our feet  
Grant us mercy  
Guide our feet  
Amen**

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Leaning On the Everlasting Arms*

**What a sisterhood, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

*Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my God so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

## **WE PROCLAIM**

### **CALL TO LISTEN**

*Wade in the Water*

**Wade in the water,  
wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water.  
God's gonna trouble the water.**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

*Exodus 21:22-24 (New International Version)*

“If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.”

*Matthew 5:38-41 (New International Version)*

[Jesus spoke to a large crowd:]

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.”

This is a questioning and transforming of the Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **MESSAGE**

*Asking Hard Questions of God and the Bible*

**Rev. Jeff Wells**

Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

## **WE RESPOND**

### **WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE**

#### **INVITATION**

*All Is Welcome At This Table*

**All is welcome at this table.  
Bring your doubts, your joys, your fear.  
Nothing wasted at this table.  
What we bring makes up the meal.**

**Bring your questions to the table  
bring unlikely, jilted gifts.  
bring your full self to the table –  
what we bring makes up the meal.**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!  
**Our hearts are lifted!**

Let us give thanks to God!  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Pelas dores deste mundo / For the Troubles and the Suffering*

**For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,  
God, we call upon your mercy:  
the whole creation's laboring in pain!  
Lend a ear to the rising cry for help  
from oppressed and hopeless people.  
Come! hasten your salvation, healing love!**

**We pray for peace, the blessed peace  
that comes from making justice,  
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, God!  
We pray for power, the power  
that will sustain your people's witness:  
until your Kin-dom come, Kyrie eleison!\***

\*Kyrie eleison (*Greek*): Lord, have mercy. Ancient Christian Prayer.

## TIME OF OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

### *Freedom*

Created and interpreted by: Helen Peterson  
Music by Paco de Lucía & Ricardo Modrego

Freedom is the open window  
through which pours the sunlight  
of the human spirit and human dignity.

*Herbert Hoover*

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains,  
but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

*Nelson Mandela*

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## BLESSING

## CLOSING HYMN

*When You Wonder, When You Wander*

**When you wonder, when you wander,  
seeking anything, ev'rything,  
in the searching, in the longing,  
God is holding you still.**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

**In your questions, in your seeking,  
when the way is tough, old answers fail  
in your wrestling, in your searching,  
God is holding you still.**

To join conversation with Pastor Jeff Wells  
type the word "PREACHER" in capital letters into the chat.

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,  
you can do that with Sam Winfrey. If you are online, you can connect with Sarah Capers  
by typing "CARE" in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

## WORSHIP HOSTS

### Worship Design Team:

Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

**PowerPoint Design:** Gabriel Borges, Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer

**Worship Leader:** John Furman

**Holy Communion:** Pastor Alexis Lillie & Monica Quintero

**Call to Offering:** Alfida Figueroa

**Dance Ministry:** Helen Peterson

**Ministers of Care:** Sarah Capers (online) & Sam Winfrey (on-site)

**Vocalists:** Jorge Lockward, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, 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:** Emilee Davis

**Zoom Chat Host:** Billy Spearman

**Usher:** Sam Winfrey

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## CREDITS

### *Cover Image:*

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### *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

M: Kathleen Thomerson

© 1970, 1975 Celebration

### *Grant Us Mercy*

W & M: Jorge Lockward

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### *Leaning On the Everlasting Arms*

W & M: E. A. Hoffman, alt.

### *Wade in the Water*

W & M: African American Spiritual

### *All Is Welcome At This Table*

W & M: Jorge Lockward

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### *For the Troubles and the Suffering of the World*

W & M: Rodolfo Gaede Neto,

Eng. trans., Simeí Monteiro & Jorge Lockward

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### *Las Tres Hojas*

M: Paco de Lucía & Ricardo Modrego

### *When You Wonder, When You Wander*

W: Stz. 1, Adam Tice; Stz. 2, Jorge Lockward

M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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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>October 17 – Sunday</b>	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>October 19 – Tuesday</b>	3:30pm – 5:30pm 7:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry ROOTS (via Zoom)
<b>October 20 – Wednesday</b>	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>October 21 – Thursday</b>	8:15pm	L.O.V.E. (via Zoom)
<b>October 22 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>October 23 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>October 24 – Sunday</b>	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](mailto: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](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!*

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



## TROUBLING TEXTS: QUESTIONING THE BIBLE

### A New Worship Series

Sundays, October 17 – November 21, 2021



So many of us left behind the beliefs of our upbringing because the doctrines we were taught did not align with our actual experience of life and of God. We had too many questions that our elders could not (or would not) answer.

- If God is all-powerful, why is there so much suffering and evil?
- Is there really a heaven, a hell, or life after death?
- Did Jesus really have to be crucified for anyone to be “saved”?

*It's good to ask questions.* Desiring a relationship with a loving God does not mean we need all of the answers. Asking questions and discerning together is, in fact, crucial to the journey of following Jesus.

This series will address difficult questions that challenge common Biblical or theological stances that no longer make sense or meet the needs of the world. So, bring your questions, doubts, and longings.

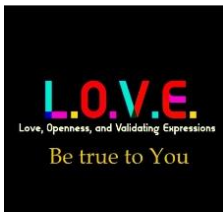
## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

### 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](mailto:smcapers99@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](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org). Join Us via [Zoom](#).

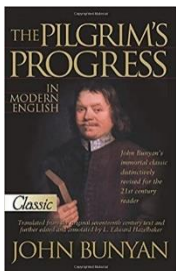
## JUSTICE FOR OUR BEIGHBORS ONLINE AUCTION

Save the Date: October 15th through November 15th

[Browse and bid](#) on more than 50 carefully curated pieces of art, from paintings to prints to pottery during New York Justice For Our Neighbors for our online art auction. Every dollar you spend gives you a chance to acquire a piece of art that you will treasure forever while also enabling us to provide free legal services to our immigrant neighbors with compassion, dignity, and love.

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

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



*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 6:00 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

## 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](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](http://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://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.

## 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](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)

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Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

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QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

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Email: [reimerkatie@gmail.com](mailto:reimerkatie@gmail.com)