



the
Church
of
the Village



A PROGRESSIVE, RADICALLY INCLUSIVE, ANTI-RACIST COMMUNITY



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



16th Annual Christmas Pageant

December 19, 2021

SONG OF ENTRANCE

Come To Be Our Hope, O Jesus

**Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set your people free.
From oppression come, release us, grant us your true liberty.
Come, release from every prison all who suffer on this earth.
In your love we'll find the reason still to live into new birth.**

WELCOME

Rev. Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Dwight Campbell

OPENING PRAYER

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Inspired by The Gospels of Luke & Matthew, sermons of Frederick Buechner and other sources

INTRODUCTION

The Innkeeper & Family

Will there ever be a time when I will matter?
Will there ever be time I can just be?
Without the fear that my loved ones might get sick, Lord?
Will there ever be a time I'm truly free?

Now you know The lord says all God's chilluns —
black & white, you know made the same way.
But, dear Lord, seems there's nothing more than heartache
evermore, everywhere, every day.

Can't you see we're waiting patiently for freedom
from the plague that's come to blanket all the land?
Can you see us, can you hear us, hear our prayers, Lord?
Lift this veil, unmask us to your loving hands.

*Tell me when (tell me when), tell me how (tell me how),
tell me when will there be a better day (coming soon)
when my soul (rises up) can be free (set us free)
Tell me when (tell me when), tell me please (show the way),
tell me when will there be a better day (here it comes)
when my soul will be free.*

Now the bible says the earth someday will be ours;
that the rich one day will answer to the poor.
But, how long must we be patient and just wait, Lord,
for you to come, open wide this jail-house door?

Every time we rise up crying: Please! Enough, Lord!
Seems there's something new that rages cross the land.
Send a light, send us a sign, something to guide us.
Give us hope, please set us free into your hands.

ACT I

The Angel Gabriel comes to Zechariah and Mary, Mary visits Elizabeth

Based on The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1, verses 5-56

For God So Loved the World

COTV Choir & Dancers, Katie Reimer, Soloist

My head is spinning, what has happened to me?
My heart is pounding, fear and joy mix within.
Did an angel really speak to me? Did I enter new doors?
I can't understand it, and yet, I feel my spirit soar.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son
that whosoever believeth in him should nor perish
but they shall have everlasting life.

Something feels different, something's growing within:
Love unrelenting, tiny butterfly wings.
Ancient seeds, dreams unspoken, sacred longings take root.
Adventures meet promises in ways that I just can't refute.

Mary & Joseph Journey to Bethlehem, Angels Come to Shepherds

Based on The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 1-20

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

COTV Choir & Shepherds

Green Onion

The Sheep

INVITATION TO OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

The First Noel

ACT II

The Magi comes to King Herod & visit the Holy Family
Based on The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2, verses 1-12

Procession to the Nativity – Celebration in Song & Dance

Walk in the Light — Siyahamba
COTV Choir & Dancers

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Hark the herald angel sing, (Jesus, the light of the world)
glory to the newborn King. (Jesus, the light of the world)

Joyful all ye nations rise, (Jesus, the light of the world)
join the triumph of the skies. (Jesus, the light of the world)

Siya hamb'ekukhanyen kwenkhos
Marcharemos en la luz de Dios
We are marching in the light of God

Silent Night, Holy Night
Choir & Congregation

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face
bring the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.**

It's Time to Come Together
COTV Choir

It's time to come together, learning a new way of living.
It is time to set aside divisions, share resources,

open borders, welcome strangers, it is time!
Around this time a homeless baby sent by God from heaven
came to show the face of God in those who find themselves
abandoned, roaming without shelter, so that we may...

give up power, learn compassion, let go of our fears,
trust that there's enough for ev'ry one,
so that life takes root and hope breaks through our walls and barriers
letting love and justice shine.
In a lowly manger Jesus taught the way of peace –
life and grace are found among the least of these!
This is why he came, why he lived and died –
So that all could be made One.

BENEDICTION

All are invited to stay online or go to the Gymnasium for a time fellowship.

**OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION CONTINUES
AS WE JOIN GOD IN TRANSFORMING THE WORLD**

Pageant Cast

Written and directed by Martha Chapman
Choreography by Martha Chapman and the dancers
Tap Choreography by Megan Haungs
Innkeeper Family scenes by Paul Pillitteri
Liturgical Writing: Katie Reimer, Jeff Wells, Jorge Lockward

Innkeeper – Paul Pillitteri

Cousin – Riot Mueller

Angel Gabriel – Megan Haungs

Narrator for Angel Gabriel scene – Katie Braden

Angel to Joseph & Shepherds – Olive Beltrán

Joseph – Gabriel Borges

Mary – Aliyah Miller

Elizabeth – Helen Peterson

Zechariah – Martine Mallary

Dancers:

Maura Elizabeth Burns
Martha Chapman
Niamh Curran
Vanity David
Kaoru Ikeda
Jacqueline Harrington
Liza Harrington
Megan Haungs
Elizabeth Levy
Martine Mallary
Aliyah Miller
Helen Peterson

Tappers:

Sarah Alphin
Alfida Figueroa
Katie Reimer

Shepherds:

Dwight Campbell
Alexis Lillie
Riot Mueller
Paul Pillitteri

Magi:

Becca Love
Danielle Previti
Danielle Haupt
Jeff Wells

King Herod:

Sam Winfrey

Herod's Guards:

Martha Chapman
Liza Harrington

INSTRUMENTS:

Jorge Lockward, piano
Dave Epohross, bass
Matthew Willis, saxophone
Roberto Giaquinto, drums & percussion

COTV CHOIR:

Yadira Abreu*, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, María Luisa García*, Karen Hackett, Jorge Lockward,
Riot Mueller, Rafael Natera,* Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

* We are grateful for the assistance of these members from the Cántico Nuevo Ecumenical Chorale.

Worship Design Team:

Martha Chapman, Pastor Jeff Wells, Jorge Lockward, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Katie Reimer, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

Worship Space Design: Suzie Wilder

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

Cover Image:

Zoom Hosts: Sarah Witman, Gabriel Borges

Zoom Visual Host: Emilee Davis

Zoom Chat Host: Louis Echevarria

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

W: Jaci Maraschin

M: HYFRYDOL (Rowland Hugh Prichard)

Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, Brazil

Words © Jaci Maraschin

Music © Marcilio de Oliveira Filho.

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A Better Day

W & M: Paul Pillitteri

© 2021 Paul Pillitteri

For God So Loved the World

W: John 3:16, stanzas by J. Lockward

M: Lanny Wolfe

Music © 1982 Lanny Wolfe Music

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

W & M: African-American spiritual

Arr. Mark Hayes

Walk in the Light

W & M: George D. Elderkin,

Siyahamba

W & M: South African Freedom Song

Silent Night

W: Joseph Mohr, trans. John F. Young

M: Franz Gruber

It's Time to Come Together

W: Rafael Grullón, Eng. adap. Jorge Lockward

M: Rafael Grullón, arr. Jorge 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.

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

December 19 – Sunday	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
December 21 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
December 22 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
December 24 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am 4:00pm	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191 Christmas Eve worship
December 25 – Saturday	11:30am 2:00pm	TRDP CLOSED: No Community Meal
December 26 – 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

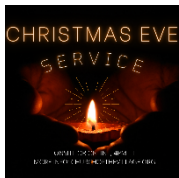
For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email giving@churchofthevillage.org. Please note - emails to this address should be about how we can help you set up your giving process but should NOT include any specific information about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

ALL IS BRIGHT: A COTV FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 24, 2021, 4pm ET



On Christmas, we celebrate light breaking through shadows and hope breaking through despair — and we look to the justice and righteousness heralded in Jesus' arrival. Let's gather as a “chosen family” for Christmas Eve, grounding ourselves in this divine presence. Wherever you are on your journey, come join with siblings as we seek the light of the universal Christ. Join us onsite or online.

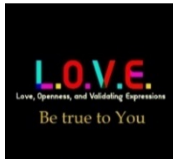
TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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.

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays; 8:30pm 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](#).

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina returns Tuesdays at 10:30 am ET.

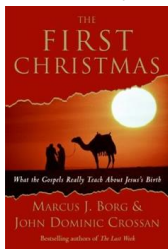
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our new study, *The First Christmas* by Marcus Bored, will focus as an in-depth examination of the Christmas stories recorded in the gospels. We will examine the similarities and differences of each story during the Advent Season. Everyone is invited to join us.

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



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 Food Pantry Tuesday, December 28, 2021.
Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.
No early line up permitted before 3pm.

There will be No Community Meal on Saturdays, December 11 - January 1. The Community Meal will resume Jan. 8, 2022.
We will 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.

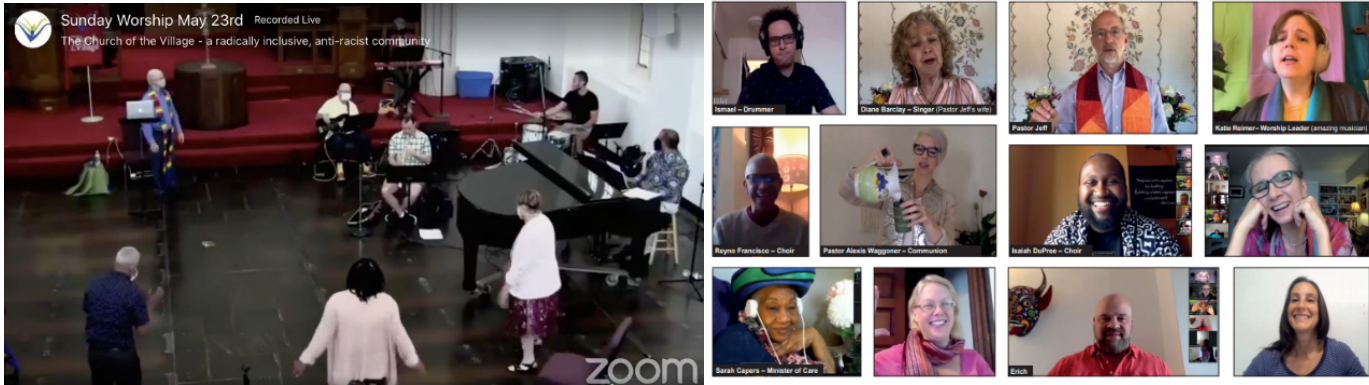
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

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



The Church of the Village never “closed” during the Covid-19 pandemic because we shifted our entire ministry to be online in March 2020. Then, as the world began slowly to emerge in the summer of 2021 from the worst of the pandemic, there was no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic.

Our reality and our 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. As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. We opened to all of our vaccinated members in September 2021 and have expanded vision and our capacities since then to become a fully online and onsite community. **As of December 19, 2021, we are fully open to the vaccinated public.**

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. We are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this dream becoming reality, 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](#).