



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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## December 24, 2021 • Christmas Eve Worship

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

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

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



***All is Bright:  
A COTV Family Christmas***

## PRELUDE

### *I'll Be Home For Christmas*

## CHOSEN FAMILY

### *Chosen Family/O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Tell me your story and I'll tell you mine.  
I'm all ears, take your time, we got all night.  
Show me the rivers crossed, the mountains scaled.  
Show me who made you walk all the way here  
Settle down, put your bags down, you're alright now.

We don't need to be related to relate.  
We don't need to share genes or a surname.  
You are, you are my chosen, chosen family.  
So what if we don't look the same?  
We been going through the same thing  
Yeah, you are, you are my chosen, chosen family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,  
O come now, O come now to Bethlehem:  
Come and behold the ruler of all angels:**

*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,  
O come, and greet the holy, Christ, our Love!*

**Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all you messengers of heavenly love.  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

**Child, for the broken, poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace you with love and awe.  
Who would not love you, loving all so dearly?**

## MEMORIES

*Christmas Tree Memoir*  
written and performed by Helen Peterson

## INCARNATION

*Welcome to Our World*  
Pastor Jeff Wells & Diane Barclay

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking;  
how we need to hear from God.  
You've been promised, we've been waiting,  
welcome holy Child, welcome holy Child.

Hope that you don't mind our manger,  
how I wish we would have known,  
but, long-awaited, holy stranger  
make yourself at home, please, make yourself at home.

Bring your peace into our violence,  
bid our hungry souls be filled.  
Word now breaking heaven's silence,  
welcome to our world, welcome to our world.

Gentle savior sent to heal us,  
tender brow prepared for thorn,  
tiny heart whose love will save us  
unto us is born, unto us is born.

So wrap our injured flesh around you,  
breathe our air and walk our sod.  
Rob our sin and make us holy  
Perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.

*Isaiah 9:2-6 (The Inclusive Bible)*

“But there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish! In the past God humbled the land of Zebulun, the land of Naphtali; but in the future God will bring glory to this Road to the Sea, this Land beyond the Jordan, this Galilee of the Nations.

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light – upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining! God, you have made this family greater—you have brought them abundant joy!  
They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations [...]

For the yoke that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors – you have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak that was dragged through blood, is now used as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.  
this one shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

## **ALL CREATION**

*Jesus, Our Brother*  
Rev. Bonnie Tarwater

Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude;  
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown, “I carried his mother up-hill and down,  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.” “I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

“I,” said the cow, all white and red, “I gave him my manger for a bed,  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.” “I,” said the cow, all white and red.

“I,” said the sheep with the curly horn, “I gave him my wool for a blanket warm,  
he wore my coat on Christmas morn.” “I,” said the sheep with the curly horn.

“I,” said the dove from the rafters high, “I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry,  
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I.” “I,” said the dove from the rafters high.

“I” said the “cat who lives in the barn, “I catch the mice on the John Cobb Farm. I’m soft and small and sit in  
your lap.” “I” said the cat, “it’s time for a nap.”

“I” said the dog who wags his tail, “I love you as big as a giant whale.”  
I’ll be your friend for evermore.” “I” said the dog, “am guarding the door.”

Thus, all the beasts by some good spell;  
In the stable dark were glad to tell.  
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

## **FAMILY**

Alfida Figueroa

*Infant Lowly*

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, ridings bringing:  
Christ te babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.**

## **THE MANGER**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Danielle Haupt & Danielle Previti

*Away in a Manger*

Jeanie Reimer & Katie Reimer

ليلة الميلاد

*Laylat al-Milad*

(The Night Before Christmas)

W & M: Traditional Arab Christmas Carol

Lay - lat al - Mi - lad yum - ma-ha-l- bugh - dou,  
 On this Christ - mas Eve ha - tred has no room,

Lay - lat al - Mi - lad tuz - hi-ru-l - ar - du,  
 On this Christ - mas Eve Earth can fi - nally bloom,

Lay - lat - al - Mi - lad tud - fa-nou-l - har - bu  
 On this Christ - mas Eve war comes to an end,

Lay - lat al - Mi - lad yan - bu-tou-l-hub - bou.  
 On this Christ - mas Eve love is born a - gain.

ليلة الميلاد ينمحي البغض  
 ليلة الميلاد تزهر الأرض  
 ليلة الميلاد تدفن الحرب  
 ليلة الميلاد ينبت الحب

Laylat al-Milad yummahah-l-bughdou  
 Laylat al-Milad tuzhiru-l-ardou  
 Laylat al-Milad tudfanou-l-harbou  
 Laylat al-Milad yanbutou-l-hubbou

On this Christmas Eve hatred has no room  
 On this Christmas Eve Earth can finally bloom  
 On this Christmas Eve war comes to an end  
 On this Christmas Eve love is born again

## WORSHIP HOSTS

**Worship Design Team:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Riot Mueller, Katie Reimer

**Readers:** Sarah Alphin, Dwight Campbell, Erich Dietrich, Reyno Francisco

**Sax/Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Worship Space Design:** Suzie Wilder

**Zoom Host:** Gabriel Borges

**Zoom Visual Host:** Jamie Jones

**Zoom Chat Host:** Maya Carter

**Ushers:** Maurice White & Alfida Figueroa

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### ***Cover Image:***

*Ordinary Glory*, by Lauren Wright Pittman (A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org), *Used by permission*

### ***I'll Be Home for Christmas***

M: Walter Kent

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### ***Chosen Family***

W & M: Rina Sawayama, Johnny Lattimer & Daniel Harle

### ***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

W: attributed to John Francis Wade;

Eng. trans. Frederick Oakeley alt.

M: ADESTE FIDELES

### ***Welcome to Our World***

W & M: Chris Rice

© 1995 Clumsy Fly Music, admin. by Word Music, LLC

### ***Jesus, Our Brother***

W & M: 12 century French carol, adapted by Bonnie Tarwater

### ***Infant Lowly***

W & M: Polish Carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed

### ***Away in a Manger***

M: James R. Murray, arr. Melody Bober

### ***Laylat al-Milad (The Night Before Christmas)***

W & M: Traditional Arab Christmas Carol

## 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>December 26 – Sunday</b>	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>December 28 – Tuesday</b>	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP CLOSED: NO Food Pantry
<b>December 29 – Wednesday</b>	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>December 31 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>January 1 – Saturday New Year’s Day</b>	<del>11:30am – 2:00pm</del>	TRDP CLOSED: No Community Meal
<b>January 2 – 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>



## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF OURS: HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

### A New Worship Series

Sundays, January 2 – February 20, 2022



*“The trouble with stars that beckon us to follow them is that we can never know at the onset of our journey where their light will lead.”* – The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde

Epiphany (from Greek *epiphainein*, meaning "reveal") is the name the Christian Church gives to the day when the Magi (wise persons), led by a star, visited the infant Jesus. The season following that is a celebration of the Light that has come into the world.

The light of Epiphany (and beyond) does not illuminate everything all at once. It does not give us all the answers. It does not guarantee the solution of all our problems. It doesn't provide a certain pathway. Rather, it shows us the next step.

This light, the light of Christ, lies deep within each one of us. The Season after Epiphany invites us to uncover and rediscover this light. This is not always easy, since the Christ light often reveals difficult truths and calls us to seemingly impossible dreams.

Join us on Sundays @ 10:30 am EST onsite or online as we dare to see what happens when we allow the light to shine, together.

## 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)

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays; 8:30pm ET



Our LGBTQA+ 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](#).

## COTV ONLINE FITNESS

### Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



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

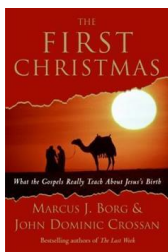
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

**Meeting ID:** 878 7016 4212

**Passcode:** fitness

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

### Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our current 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 early line up permitted before 3pm.**

**Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street. THERE IS NO FOOD PANTRY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2021.**

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

### **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 pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers ([smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](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



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. We are actively evaluating when to open fully 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](#).



## 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: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (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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Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

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Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

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Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

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Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

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

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

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