



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

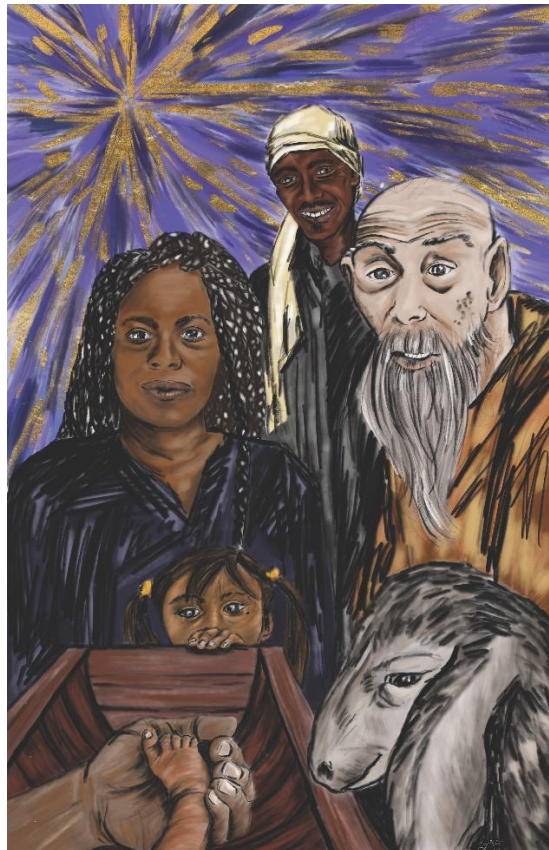
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December 26, 2021 • 1st Sunday of Christmas

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

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

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



***Prophetic Visions:
Seeds of Living Hope***

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the Earth, To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the Earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now new angels sing.**

**Arise, arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.
Arise, arise your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

It’s tempting to turn Christmas into a safe holiday that asks little of us. But that would ignore the prophetic, subversive life of Jesus. Christians honor him on this holiday – and the rest of the year – only if we risk the scorn of the powerful to stand with the undocumented immigrant, the Muslim family viewed with suspicion, the refugee fleeing injustice.

– John Gehring, “Why Christmas is Radical,” Religion News Service (2016)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

– Howard Thurman, “The Work of Christmas” (1985)

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Song of the Angels

**God is present in this place
all around us, in each face.
There are angels in our midst
this is why we dare to sing –**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**All are welcome in this place,
all are cherished, loved, embraced.
As we join our hearts to sing
hope is born, amazing grace.**

**Glory to God in the highest!*

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25 (The Inclusive Bible)

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth! The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind! Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create, because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight! I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or old people who do not live out their days. They die as mere youths who reach but a hundred years, and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed. At last they will live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant. They will not build for another to inhabit; they will not plant for another to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy the fruit of their labors.

They will not labor in vain or bear children doomed to die; for they and their descendants are a people blessed by God. Even before they call upon me, I will answer; and while they speak, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side; the lion will eat straw like an ox. Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground; they will not injure or destroy in all my holy mountain," says YHWH.

This is the Word of Hope.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Prophetic Visions: Seeds of Living Hope

Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF HEALING

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SONG OF HOPE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

TIME OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (EST IST 'EIN ROS')

Sayazhee'u Yawmun Aakharun (Another Day Will Come)
Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish

Another day will come, a womanly day
diaphanous in metaphor, complete in being,
diamond and processional in visitation, sunny,
Flexible, with a light shadow. No one will feel
a desire for suicide or for leaving. All
things, outside the past, natural and real,
will be synonyms of their early traits. As if time
is slumbering on vacation... "Extend your lovely
beauty-time. Sunbathe in the sun of your silken breasts,
and wait until good omen arrives. Later
we will grow older. We have enough time
to grow older after this day..."
Another day will come, a womanly day
songlike in gesture, lapis in greeting
and in phrase. All things will be feminine outside
the past. Water will flow from rock's bosom.

No dust, no drought, no defeat.
And a dove will sleep in the afternoon in an abandoned
combat tank if it doesn't find a small nest
in the lovers' bed...

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world, the Christ is come;
let earth its praises ring;
let ev'ry heart prepare and offer room,
as heav'n and nature sing, as heav'n and nature sing,
as heav'n, as heav'n and nature sing.

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!
Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let fear and borders fall!
As strangers become friends and join in one accord
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!
No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
God's love has come to stay to show and make a way
'till all have been made One, 'till all have been made One.
'till all, 'till all have been made One.
Joy!

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,
you can do that on-site with Virginia Riker or Sam Winfrey in the Narthex.
You can connect online with Monica Quintero
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, Gabriel Borges, Alfida Figueroa

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

Worship Leader: Alfida Figueroa

Call to Offering: Sam Winfrey

Dance Ministry: Martine Mallery

Ministers of Care: Monica Quintero (online) & Virginia Riker and Sam Winfrey (on-site)

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

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Brian Woodruff

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Visual Host: TBD

Chat Host: Sarah Witman

Usher: Maurice White

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

“God Couldn’t Wait,” By Lisle Gwynn Garrity (A Sanctified Art, 2019), Inspired by use 2:1-14, Used by permission

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

W: Verse 1-3: E. H. Sears, Verse 4: Ruth Duck

M: Richard Storrs Willis

The Song of the Angels

W: Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

M: French carol melody

Words © 2017 Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

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Go, Tell It On the Mountain

W & M: African American Spiritual

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

M: EST IST ‘EIN ROS’ arr. M. Praetorius

Joy to the World

W: Isaac Watts (alt.)

M: Lowell Mason (Arr. from G.F. Handel)

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 26 – Sunday	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
December 28 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP CLOSED: NO Food Pantry
December 29 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
December 31 – Friday	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
January 1 – Saturday New Year’s Day	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP CLOSED: No Community Meal
January 2 – Sunday	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care



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>

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.

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

1st & 3rd 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.

Join Us via [Zoom](#).

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



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

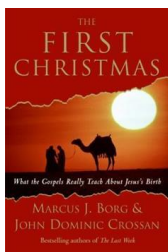
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

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) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

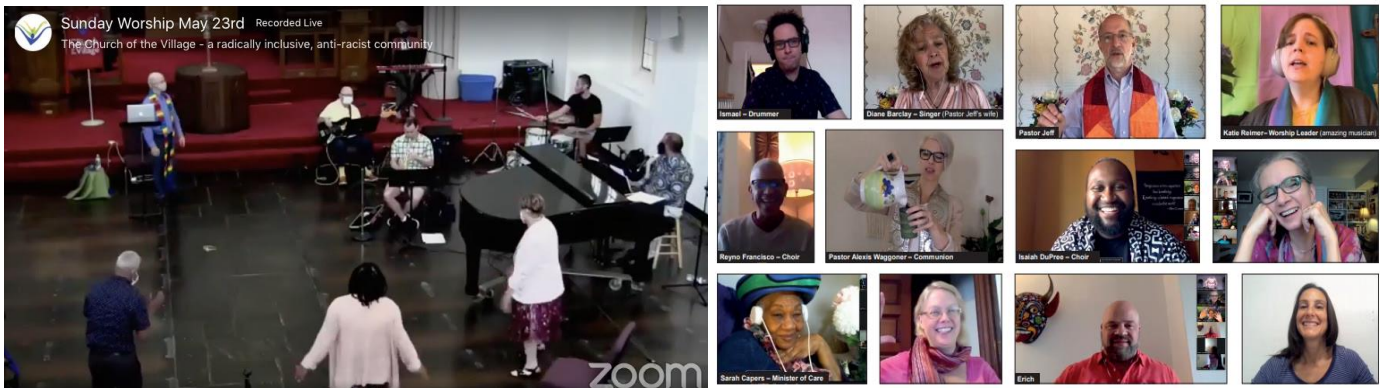
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

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. 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

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7; (917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

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