



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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March 29, 2024 • Good Friday
Celebrating Women's History Month

Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders



Good Friday

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Lenape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

PRELUDE

*Jesús inclinó la cabeza/
Jesus Inclined His Head*



Se cubrieron de luto los montes.
El Señor rasgó el velo del templo.
Dieron gritos las piedras en duelo.

The hills were covered in mourning.
God tore the veil of the temple.
The stones cried out in mourning.

**Jesús inclinó la cabeza
a la hora de nona.**

**Jesus bowed his head
at the ninth hour.**

Levantaron sus ojos los pueblos.
Contemplaron al que traspasaron
Del costado manó sangre y agua.

The people raised their eyes.
They contemplated the one they pierced.
Blood and water flowed from his side.

**Jesús inclinó la cabeza
a la hora de nona.**

**Jesus bowed his head
at the ninth hour.**

Quien lo vió es el que da testimonio.
Amen.

The one who saw it bears witness.
Amen.

**Jesús inclinó la cabeza
a la hora de nona.**

**Jesus bowed his head
at the ninth hour.**

WELCOME

THE PASSION STORY

When morning came,
all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus
to put him to death.

And when they had bound Jesus,
They led him away and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Then Judas, the betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned,
was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver
to the chief priests and elders, saying,
“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”
They responded, “What is that to us? You see to it!”

Then Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple
and departed, and went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said,
“It is not lawful to put them into the treasury,
because they are the price of blood.”
And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field,
to bury strangers in.
Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Now Jesus stood before the governor.
And the governor asked Jesus, saying, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.”

While Jesus was being accused by the chief priests and elders,
he answered nothing.
Then Pilate said to Jesus,
“Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

But Jesus did not respond, so that the governor marveled greatly.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude
one prisoner whom they wished.

And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.
Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them,

“Whom do you want me to release to you?
Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”

For he knew that they had handed Jesus over because of envy.

The chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes
that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

The governor asked them again,
“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

They said, "Barabbas!"

Pilate said to them,
"What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"
They all said to him,
"Let him be crucified!"

Then the governor said,
"Why, what evil has he done?"
But they cried out all the more, saying,
"Let him be crucified!"

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all,
but rather that a tumult was rising,
he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying,
"I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

And all the people answered and said,
"His blood be on us and on our children."

Then Pilate, the governor, released Barabbas to them;
and after scourging Jesus, delivered him...
to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium
and gathered the whole garrison around Him.
And they stripped Him
and put a scarlet robe on Him.

When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on his head,
and a reed in his right hand.
And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying,
"Hail, King of the Jews!"

Then they spat on Jesus,
and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

After mocking Jesus, they took the robe off him,
put his own clothes on Him, and led him away to be crucified.

Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

WISDOM FROM THE CROSS

I. Forgiveness

II. Chosen Family / Community

III. Healing

IV. Truth-Telling

MORE WISDOM FROM THE CROSS

Today, No Flaw

Upon the cross, a crown of thorns,
Where shadows stretched and sunlight mourned,
He spoke, a promise in His breath,
Words that conquered sting of death.

“Today,” He murmured, soft and clear,
“With Me in Paradise, my dear.”
To one who hung beside His pain,
A thief repentant, washed from stain.

No earthly court, no judge’s decree,
Could grant such grace, set justice free.
But from the lips of Love divine,
A thief received life’s sweetest wine.

In that shared agony, that hour,
Mercy bloomed, a crimson flower.
Beyond the scoffs, the brutal jeers,
Hope blossomed, silencing all fears.

“Paradise,” a whispered song,
Where sin departs, and right goes wrong.
A thief, forgiven, hand in hand,
With Christ the King, across the land.

No scales of merit weighed that day,
Just brokenness that found its way,
To boundless love, and pardon’s kiss,
“Today,” a word for all to miss.

For who are we, to judge, condemn,
When even thieves find heaven’s gem?
Let echoes of that promise hold,
In every heart, both brave and cold.

“Today,” He calls, across the years,
“With Me, in Paradise, shed tears

Of joy, not sorrow, for I wait,
To open wide the eternal gate.”

So let us walk, with humbled head,
By faith redeemed, by grace instead.
And when our final breath we draw,
Hear Christ’s soft voice, “Today, no flaw.”

In Paradise, where shadows cease,
With Him, dear thief, enjoy the peace.

Anonymous

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Alfida Figueroa & John Wesley Heaton

Lectors/Readers: Dwight Campbell & Paul Pillitteri

Station Facilitators: John Wesley Heaton, Jeff Wells, Kelsey Evans, Katie Reimer

Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs of the COTV Dance Ministry.

Maura Burns, Martha Chapman & Aliyah Miller courtesy of Omega Dance Company.

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

Piano & Music Direction: Katie Reimer

Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Sound Engineer: Maya Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image: Women of Holy Week (Good Friday) © Ally Barrett (www.reverendally.org), Used by permission

Jesús inclinó la cabeza

W: Adapted from Good Friday Hymn in the Liturgy of the Hours

M: Taizé Community

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Where You There?

W & M: African American Spiritual



Omega Dance Company is a professional sacred dance company in residence at the Church of the Village. Comprised of professional dancers and educators of diverse backgrounds, Omega ministers to communities of varying faiths throughout the New York City metropolitan area by offering dance in worship settings, presenting concerts with spiritual or social justice themes, and giving workshops that explore how movement can reveal the sacred. To learn more about Omega's unique 40+-year history, and to find information on upcoming performances and workshops, please visit omegadancecompany.org or find us on Facebook or Instagram

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

March 31 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Easter Sunday worship Community Closet
April 2 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
April 3 – Wednesday	6:30pm-7:30pm 6:30pm	God After Deconstruction Choir Rehearsal
April 6 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
April 7 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship Community Closet

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Community, Commitment, and Courage

I give because I need to support the people and places that give me life.

I give because I gotta put my money where my mouth is...

I give because this community looks like God's Kin-dom in action to me.

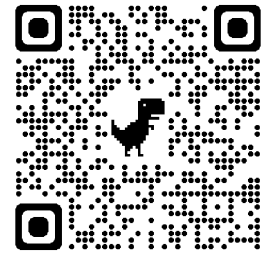
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

We, the Stewardship Team, are grateful for the many ways your commitment to our community expresses itself. In particular, we are grateful that you see financial giving as one of the ways in which you covenant with other members of this community and with the God whose love draws us together and outward to the world in which our lives are lived. As you give prayerful discernment to your gifting for 2024 – your expression of solidarity with fellow journeyers in faith – please consider the many individuals, initiatives, and hopes that reside in our congregation and give as generously as you are able.

You can express your commitment via: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>. Or, if you have questions, via: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org.

As we work together to foster, support and grow, we have tried to make it easy to give. Apart from our weekly collection basket for those on site, we offer the following:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT**
- **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!



Jason Brubaker



John Kleinig



Jorge Lockward



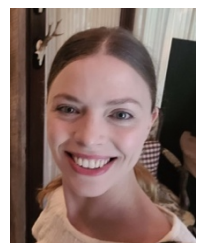
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



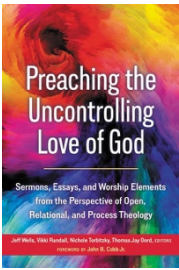
Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



PREACHING THE UNCONTROLLING LOVE OF GOD BOOK LAUNCH

Tuesday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 3

We are excited to share the news that the new book, *Preaching the Uncontrolling Love of God* will be released on Monday, April 1. The book will be available from multiple online booksellers.

We invite you to join us for the in-person book launch (also on Zoom) at the Church of the Village (NYC) on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm ET or the online Zoom book launch on Wednesday, April 3 at 3:30pm PT / 4:30pm MT / 5:30pm CT / 6:30pm ET.

For more information and to register: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/preaching-the-uncontrolling-love-of-god>

This important book was co-edited by Jeff Wells, Vikki Randall, Nichole Torbitzky, and Thomas Jay Oord. John B. Cobb Jr. wrote the Foreword. It has endorsements from Brian McLaren, Tripp Fuller, and Karen Strand Winslow.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 24 - March 31

Join us in person or online at for Holy Week to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here is our schedule:

Palm Sunday – 3/24 10:30am

Holy Thursday – 3/28 6:00pm

Good Friday – 3/29 6:00pm

Easter Sunday – 3/31 10:30am



CONVERSATION ON BAPTISM

Saturday, 3/30, 11:00am via Zoom

Join us over Zoom to explore the theology of baptism and what it means in the United Methodist Church.



GOD AFTER DECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, *EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 24th*, 6:30pm via Zoom

During Lent, we will be offering a weekly discussion group based on the course, God

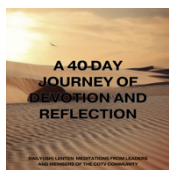
After Deconstruction, created by friends of Church of the Village, Tripp Fuller and Thomas Jay

Oord. Join us for a facilitated discussion led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Alexis each Wednesday in Lent at

6:30pm via Zoom. Themes include scripture, the problem of evil, faith and science, sex and gender, and

others. For more details go to www.churchofthevillage.org/groups or contact Pastor Alexis at

pastoralexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062849124>



A 40 DAY JOURNEY OF DEVOTION AND REFLECTION

Weekdays during Lent

During Lent we'll be offering daily(ish) devotionals and reflections from leaders and members of the COTV community, centered on wilderness. They'll offer a brief thought on how themes of wilderness have shown up in their lives, as well as an opportunity to pause and meditate, pray, or reflect further.

We hope you'll be able to engage regularly with the daily reflections, and that they are helpful in enabling you to pause in contemplation during this season. Anyone who is signed up for the COTV newsletter will receive these in their inboxes. For more information, and to see all of the reflections in one place, please visit <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/a-40-day-journey-of-devotion-and-reflection>

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Sundays, Noon to 1pm.



Community Closet is seeking donations!

Ready to let go of some of your gently used clothing and accessories? Make space in your closet by helping to stock our free, inclusive, and identity-affirming community closet. Contributions can be brought to COTV on Sundays or email Pastor Alexis to arrange a possible pick-up!

Spread the word! Church of the Village's Community Closet will be available every Sunday for 1 hour after service in the narthex. All are welcome to browse the racks and shop for free! If you know of someone who may be desiring a new style or a wardrobe change, please invite them to check us out! We have a variety of styles and sizes but are especially looking for donations of womenswear in sizes 10 and above as well as menswear in good condition. Interested in hosting the Community Closet after service one Sunday? Sign up here or e-mail Beccalove123@gmail.com for more info!

DANCE PRAYER

Every third Thursday of the month, 6:30pm-7:30pm



Join us in the sanctuary every third Thursday of the month for Dance Prayer! We will come together with an opening prayer and moment of reflection and then spend 45 minutes moving our bodies and dancing together to a diverse playlist. There will be no designated choreography and no final performance, just a joyful space to connect with your own rhythm while rejoicing in the gift of dance and community. Each gathering will then close with a moment of prayer and reflection before we part ways

HEALING CONVERSATIONS

(Every 4th Sunday of the month); 12:30pm

Healing Conversations is a place to share your feelings about the losses in your life in a safe, supportive, and friendly atmosphere. Your feelings of loss may be caused by events that are recent or in the distant past. You are invited to join our small group on site or online via Zoom (**Meeting ID:** 838 5366 1938 **Passcode:** 690827).

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; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Appointments are available via the [Plentiful App](#) (download from the play/app store). You can search for us, in the app, by name "The Red Door Place" or scroll through the list (towards the bottom) and our pantry will show. After registering on the app, you will receive a QR code - **BRING the QR code with you to your**

appointment. Arrive within 5 minutes of your scheduled appointment and present your QR code for scanning.

If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry. Note: Missed appointments can be rescheduled to a later open slot or the following Tuesday. If you have any questions call (347) 687-5321 or visit www.thereddoorplace.org.

Community Meal: 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!

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 TO THE RED DOOR PLACE, 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 Red Door Place empowerment 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 worshiping 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.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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