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.
TEXTE DE LA PAGE

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

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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
For other uses please contact jorgelockward@yahoo.com

Leaning On the Everlasting Arms

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., Simei Monteiro & Jorge Lockward
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Onelicense.net # A-725898

Las Tres Hojas
M: Paco de Lucas & 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.

Please follow us on Facebook (Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage), Twitter (@uncofthevillage), 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

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

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. 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](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 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.
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
Phone: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development
Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org
Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts
Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org
Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office
Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org
Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.10

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place (aka Hope for Our Neighbors in Need)
Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org
Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

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: livnnyc@gmail.com

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee
Email: reimerkatie@gmail.com