

We, the youth of Riverside Church, are striking from school on Friday, September 20 because we believe the scientists and our pastor who say that the earth is dying. The science says we have just a few years to transform our energy system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prevent the worst effects of climate change.

We demand that we use the language of faith to inspire action.

We are striking because our leaders have yet to acknowledge, prioritize, or properly address our climate crisis. We are rising up with youth around New York City and around the world to demand that those in power use their power responsibly.

We demand that our leaders prioritize this urgent and deadly issue.

We are striking because marginalized communities across our nation – especially communities of color, disabled communities, and low-income communities – are already disproportionately impacted by climate change. We are striking because we refuse to make the traumatic choices we will have to make if the worst effects of climate changes become real – the choice between protecting me or protecting each other, protecting our own families or protecting each other's families, the choice to save our own neighborhoods or to save each other's.

We demand legislation that acknowledges the interconnectedness of this issue with issues of poverty, gender inequity, racial injustice, and the immigration crisis.

We are striking to disrupt the social order that has allowed this climate crisis to happen. Why should we worry about going to school and getting good grades if the world will be uninhabitable by the time we graduate from college? Why should we worry about getting confirmed and becoming full members of the church if the world is going to be destroyed by climate change? This social order has allowed many people to continue denying the climate crisis in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence. This social order has allowed big industries to shape our laws and profit from this crisis, and allowed a few people with large amounts of money and power to prevent change.

We demand that we strike together because only then is the system is forced to face the climate crisis and enact change.

We are striking for the Green New Deal, for a fair and just transition to a 100% renewable economy, and for ending the creation of additional fossil fuel infrastructure. We are striking because we are running out of time. God commanded Noah to build an ark so he and his family could escape an environmental disaster. This time, humans are creating the climate chaos, and we believe human beings are called to repair the damage before it's too late.

We demand the climate crisis is declared an interfaith and interdenominational spiritual emergency because of the moral failure that has led us to this point.

CALL TO ACTION

1. **STRIKE WITH US.** On September 20th, leave your jobs and your schools and join us in Foley Square at 12 noon.
2. **BREAK THE SILENCE.** It takes effort and courage to speak up about what is happening. We are calling on you to talk about climate change every chance you get – with friends, family, co-workers.
3. **SIMPLIFY OUR LIFESTYLES.** The choices we make have a significant impact on the health of our environment. Compost and recycle. Stop using single-use plastics, especially plastic water bottles. Make informed and responsibly choices about the food you eat. Reduce your energy use. Find other ways of committing to responsible living.
4. **CONNECT THE DOTS.** The climate crisis is not a niche concern. Climate justice cannot be separated from racial justice, immigration justice, and economic justice.
5. **EXPAND RIVERSIDE'S PROPHETIC WITNESS THAT CLIMATE JUSTICE IS A SPIRITUAL ISSUE.** Support greening initiatives that make our church a model for others to follow. Maintain a focus on climate justice in our worship through focused preaching, collective prayers, responsive readings, and more that focus on this crisis.

Jesus came to [them] proclaiming the Good News of God and saying,

“The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the Good News.”

Mark 1:15

LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING

*Lift every voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
Shadowed beneath the hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.*

**ON 9.20
WE STRIKE**

11:00AM: Meetup at Riverside
(Claremont Avenue Entrance)

12:00PM: Rally in Foley Square
(March to Battery Park)

2:30-5:30PM: Rally in Battery Park



**SEAS
ARE
RISING
SO
ARE
WE**