

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



SEPTEMBER 22, 2019
HOMECOMING SUNDAY
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.

As you prepare yourself for Worship, we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

“I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of humankind is through love and in love.”

-Victor Frankl

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

Complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

A free church tour is offered each Sunday after Worship. Meet in the 1st balcony, no reservation necessary. Tours also take place Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as church schedule permits, leaving from the Welcome Center / Gift Shop. Reservations recommended. Visit trcny.org/visit.

Assistive hearing devices and large print bulletins are available upon request from an usher.

GATHERING

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

CARILLON

Hail Festival Day *arr. Phyllis Webb*

Centennial Prelude on “God of Grace and God of Glory”
Robert Hebble, arr. J. Lawson

Variations on “God of Grace and God of Glory” *Charles Semowich*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING

479 - Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven *Lauda Anima*

398 - There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

341 - Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! *Blessed Assurance*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

INTROIT

Gabi, Gabi *Trad. South African melody*
Trans. Nyberg, Notman KB, Ljungbro, and Parkman

Praise our Creator, Liberator, and Lord, who frees all the captives and gives the hungry bread.

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN 455

All Creatures of Our God and King *Lasst uns erfreuen*

+CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Debra Northern

One: O God, you are righteous.

All: Transform us by your Word!

One: Your judgments are upright.

All: Transform us by your Word!

One: Your precepts are unforgettable.

All: Transform us by your Word!

One: Give us understanding and we will live.

**All: Re-form us, reconcile us,
Transform us by your Word!**

+INVOCATION

+*All who are able, please stand*

ANTHEM

Walk Together, Children *Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan*
Walk together children, don't you get weary. Walk together children, don't
you get weary. Oh, talk together children, don't you get weary. There's a great
camp meeting in the Promised Land. Sing together children, don't you get
weary. Sing together children, don't you get weary. Oh, shout together
children, don't you get weary. There's a great camp meeting in the Promised
Land. Gonna mourn and never tire. Mourn and never tire. Mourn and never
tire. There's a great camp meeting in the Promised Land.

CHILDREN & YOUTH BLESSING

Amanda Meisenheimer
& Rev. Bruce Lamb

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Livingston
& Hillary Puckett

**We welcome you with joy and friendship into the common life
of The Riverside Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we
continue to grow together in God's love and grace
and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

LISTENING

We listen for the word of God through song, Scripture, and preaching

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper
& Rev. Jim Keat

Genesis 32:22-31

(pg. 30 in the Old Testament)

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Lucia Herndon

Romans 12:1-2

(pgs. 161 & 162 in the New Testament)

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 313

Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

†GOSPEL LESSON

Celia Lloyd

John 8:2-11

(pgs. 100 & 101 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Erik Kolbell

The Incomparable Journey From Here to There

RESPONDING

*We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer,
passing the peace, offering and monthly communion*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Livingston

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the language or version of your heart.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†*All who are able, please stand*

CHORAL AMEN

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Hillary Puckett

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Psalm 122

Leo Sowerby

I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord, to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord. For there is the seat of judgment, even the seat of the house of David. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will wish thee prosperity. Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do thee good.

✠AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Kevin VanHook

Today we celebrate the work of all our lay ministries, which have a long and fruitful history here at The Riverside Church.

SENDING

We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors

✠BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

✠RECESSIONAL HYMN 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Worship Ways

Special thanks to our congregational leaders:

Lucia Herndon, Celia Lloyd, & Hillary Puckett

LAY MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH

Today we celebrate the work of our lay ministries which have a long and fruitful history here at The Riverside Church. We also invite you to consider where God may be calling you to serve in the coming year.

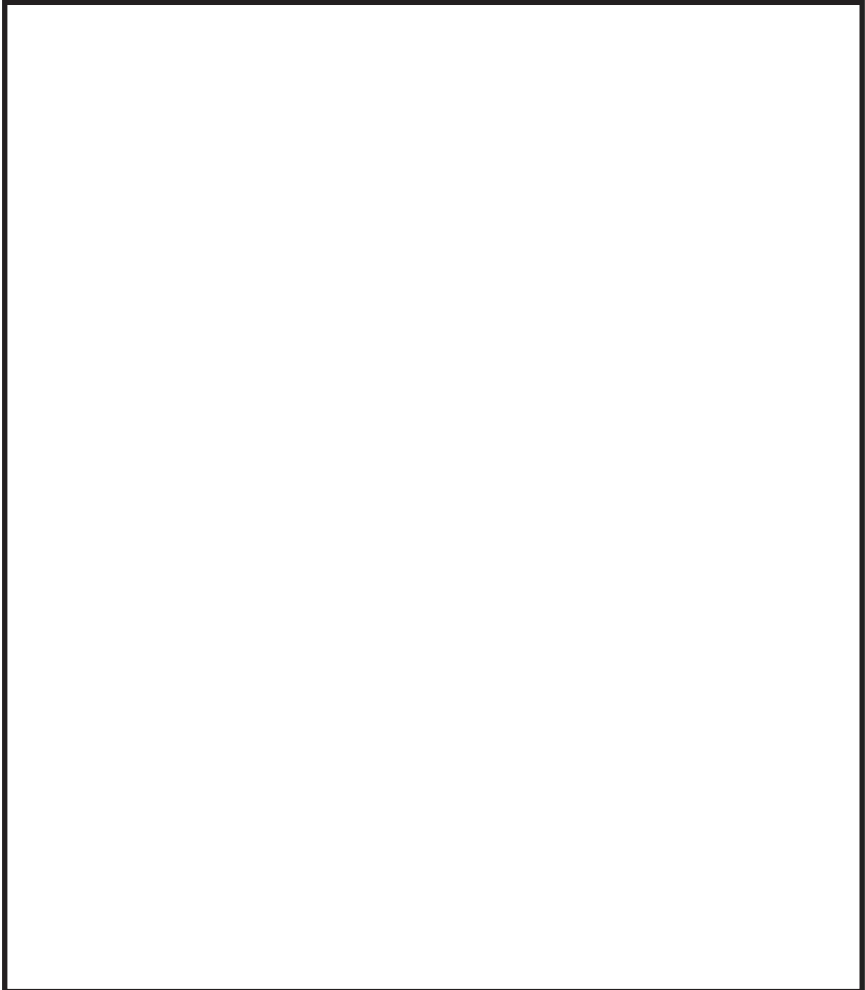
Audit Committee
Building Committee
Budget & Planning Committee
Church Council
Executive Committee
Finance Committee
Nominating Committee
Ordination Committee
Personnel & Salary Committee
Senior Minister Committee
Stewardship Committee
Career Day Committee
Education Commission
Millennial Scholarship Committee
QTRC: Young Adult LGBTQ Fellowship
Riverside Book Club
Riverside Youth String Ensemble
Riverside Youth Choir
Young Adult Advisory Board
Barber Training Program
Business & Professional Women's Club
Membership
Membership, Care & Parish Life Commission
Memorial Society
Social Services
Spiritual Life Retreat
Stephen Ministry
Tower League

African Fellowship
Beloved Earth Community
Black Lives Matter
Coming Home
Ecclesia Ministry
Knitters and Crocheters
Latinos at Riverside
Lift Every Voice and Vote
Live Justice Now Campaign
Maranatha
Men's Class
Mission & Social Justice Commission
Movies@Riverside
Poor People's Campaign
Prison Ministry
Sharing & Densford Funds
Sojourners Detention Visitation
South Africa & Cuba Support Group
Theatre of the Oppressed
Wellbotics
Welcome Center/ Gift Shop
Board of Ushers
Communion Ministry
Deaf Ministry
Flower Guild
Greeters Ministry
Handbell Choir
Music Ministry
Space for Grace
Worship Commission



DRAW IT

In Luke 16, Jesus tells a parable about how the way we use things matters. Think about some of the things you have - maybe it's a talent or something you're good at, maybe it's a special art kit you love to use, or some allowance money. **Draw a picture of a way you could use something you have to bless and love someone else.**



ABOUT RIVERSIDE

The Riverside Church is an interdenominational, interracial, international, open, welcoming, and affirming church and congregation. The church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ. Riverside cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York and with the New York State, National, and World Council of Churches. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please pick up the Life of the Community newsletter located in the back of the pew or outside the Welcome Center. Visit trcnyc.org/Events for more information and to download a copy.



A Yale Divinity School graduate, **Erik Kolbell** was the first Minister of Social Justice at Riverside Church in New York City where he worked on fair housing, racial equality, nuclear disarmament, prison reform and other issues. His work took him to Nicaragua as an official U.S. observer for the first democratic elections, to Cuba with *Pastors for Peace* delivering medical supplies, and to South Africa on a fact-finding mission during the apartheid years.

As a Congregational minister with a concentration in Judaic studies, Kolbell has a broad understanding of religious issues and where they intersect with American culture. Prior to his ministry at Riverside Church, Kolbell worked for several years as a college chaplain. His psychotherapy practice incorporates his expertise in family and couples counseling. Kolbell has appeared on *The Today Show* and *Dateline* on NBC, *The Early Show* on CBS, *The Charlie Rose Show* on PBS, *Morning Joe* on MSNBC, *The Jane Pauley Show*, *Your Total Health*, local television, and numerous radio programs.

He is the author of *The God of Second Chances* and *Were You There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross*. His book, *What Jesus Meant: The Beatitudes and a Meaningful Life*, received a "Best Spiritual Books 2003" from *Spirituality and Health Magazine*. He also authored *Lifescrpts for Family and Friends: What to Say in 101 of Life's Most Troubling and Uncomfortable Situations*, a guidebook for difficult conversations.

PARKING - 9/22/2019

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 6:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

CONNECT WITH US.

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CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email communications@trcnyc.org.

For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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