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:

“Let us not miss or dismiss this vital time between departure and arrival. Rather than worrying about ‘are we there yet?’, let us join together across physical distance in prayer and worship, trusting that the Spirit of the Living Christ is making us ready for a yet-unknown arrival of something new.”

-Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

The Liturgical Year
The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Eastertide, a period of 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ until Pentecost. The liturgical color of Eastertide is white, which symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death, as signified by the paraments and clergy stoles.

Bulletin Cover Image: The Ascension (1973) JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.
GATHERING
We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

CARILLON
HOpen Now the Gates of Beauty  
Charles, Semowich, Carillonneur  
arr. Betty Buchanan

ORGAN
Prelude on Darwall’s 148th  
Percy Whitlock

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY  
Rev. Debra Northern

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rise up dear God, be the light of this new day!
All: Scatter all who thirst for hate away. By Your loving hand all evil shall perish.

One: With Your help, we will lift up a song to You who rides upon the clouds.
All: Through Your strength and grace we shall sing with exuberance and joy.

One: The provider for our needs, the protector of all who feel weak, shine brightly in all of our homes as we worship today.
All: Awesome is God in this virtual sanctuary. We welcome You in all of Your glorious power and strength. Blessed be to God!

OPENING HYMN 423
Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun  
Duke Street

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!
INVOCATION

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS
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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON
Acts 1:1-11
(page 118 in the New Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON
(page 91 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Between Departure and Arrival

PASTORAL PRAYER
One: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

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.
PASSING OF THE PEACE
One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

OFFERTORY SOLO
He's Got the Whole World in His Hand            arr. Margaret Bond/Matt King
He's got the whole world in his hand. He's got the woods and the waters in his hand.
He's got the birds and the bees right in his hand. He's got the beasts of the field right
in his hand. He's got you and me right in his hand.
Linda Childs, soprano
Matt King, piano

THE DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION
Today we celebrate the work of the Stephen Ministry, which equips and empowers
lay members to provide Christ-centered care to people in need of encouragement and
support.

CLOSING HYMN 155
Rejoice, the Lord Is King                      Darwall's 148th
Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail,
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints
For their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
SENDING
We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors

BENEDICTION
Rev. Harper

POSTLUDE
March in D Alexandre Guilmant

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Greg Muniz

Liturgical Resources for Today:
1Inspired by Psalm 68
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

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST
Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder, add us to your “safe sender list,” or visit trcnyc.org/Email to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please visit trcnyc.org/Events for more information and to download a copy.

WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG
If you need more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship to watch the Sunday morning Livestream, videos of the sermon and the choirs, and more. Be sure to watch The Word Made Fresh, our weekly video Bible Study, and catch up on Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast.
CONNECT WITH US.

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trcnyc.org

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK