The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

MAY 31, 2020
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:

"The Holy Spirit is a fire. A church that tries to control it, whether through rigid liturgies and set service times in specific buildings or through specific dramatic experiences in carefully engineered contexts with a limited range of legitimate meanings, is trying to control a fire with a fan. We didn't start the fire. We don't get to direct the fire. We don't get to say what occurrences are triggered by the fire and what aren't."

-Rev. Dr. Sam Wells

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. Today we celebrate Pentecost, signified by red paraments and clergy stoles. Red symbolizes the tongues of fire that descended upon the disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them as described in Acts 2.

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Hail Festival Day *arr. Betty Buchanan*

Charles Semowich, Carillonneur

ORGAN

Phantasie on "Veni Creator Spiritus" (excerpt) *Filippo Capoccci*

"Come, God Creator, Holy Ghost" (BWV 667) *J. S. Bach*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Like a dove the Holy Spirit falls fresh upon us bringing the love, joy and the peace of the living God. On this day of Pentecost, let us prepare ourselves to receive the Helper that our God promised.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fall fresh on me!

One: Come, O Spirit of truth! Reveal our authentic hearts to this world so that we may proclaim God's divine presence in us with sincerity and integrity.

All: Come Holy Spirit, let Your truth radiate through me!

One: Breath of the Almighty, Comforter of all upset, Spread Your peace like fire enkindling our trembling hearts with your burning Spirit.

All: Come Holy Spirit, ignite Your fire in me!

OPENING HYMN 313

Come Down, O Love Divine *Down Ampney*

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

INVOCATION Rev. Debra Northern

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

A Peaceful Alleluia *Jean Anne Shafferman*

Alleluia, sing alleluia, sing, O sing alleluia. Peace, peace, O sing of peace. Alleluia.

Rising Voices
Yuliya Basis, piano
Matthew Hommez, director

TEACHING MOMENT Amanda Meisenheimer

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Minister Charlene Wingate

Acts 2:1-21
(page 119 in the New Testament)

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON Sidney Outlaw

John 20:19-23
(page 115 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Northern

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Sam Wells

We Didn't Start The Fire

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Livingston

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.

CHORAL AMEN

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE Jean Schmidt

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit *Spiritual, arr. Wm. Dawson*

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine. Jordan river is chilly and cold, it chills the body, but not the soul; there ain't but one train upon this track, it runs to heaven and right back.

Sidney Outlaw, baritone

THE DOXOLOGY

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 Minister Wingate

Today we celebrate Riverside's communications ministry. We all encounter God in different ways and right now so many of us are finding new digital ways to connect with God and with one another through Zoom calls, podcasts, videos, and social media. Riverside's communications ministry connects with over 25,000 people across the country and around the world.

CLOSING HYMN 129

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us *Ebenezer*

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
Come with Pentecostal power;
Give the church a stronger vision,
Help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation,
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
Still the church is called to mission
That God's love shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias
For the grace of yester-years;
For tomorrow's unknown pathway,
Hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.
In the church's pilgrim journey
You have led us all the way,
Still in presence move before us,
Fire by night and cloud by day.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise You,
Glorify Your holy name.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Three in one: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
Now and through eternity.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Fanfare to the Tongues of Fire[1] *Larry King*

Welcome to the newest members of our
Riverside Church family who joined May 24, 2020

Michelle Drayton
Penelope Yungblut
Wiltona Watson
John Bank

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Jean Schmidt, Sidney Outlaw, Clarence Anderson, Carolyn Bland, Lorraine Burchall, Michael Chase, Pat Clark, Alexa Donaphin, Jonathan Favors-Grimes, Monique Fortune, Chiara Fuller, Emi Hare-Yim, Danielle Hartley, Rob Hartley, Brad Jones, Judy Keenan, Len Leach, Rueben Martinez, Karen McVoy, Marilyn Mitchell, Aida Montero, Robbie Patterson, Jan Powell, Irwin Reese, Stacey Robinson, Cathy C.Smith, David Vaughn

Liturgical Resources for Today:

[1]*Commissioned by The Riverside Church in 1978 for the dedication of the Trompeta Majestatis.*

"**Rev. Dr. Sam Wells** arguably has the liveliest, most agile, best informed, critically disciplined mind in the entire Christian community. And he has a baptized heart of honesty, compassion, and passion to match his baptized mind." *(Walter Brueggemann)* Rev. Dr. Sam Wells is a preacher, pastor, writer, broadcaster, and theologian. He has served as a Church of England parish priest for 22 years. He also spent 7 years in North Carolina, where he was dean of Duke University Chapel. Sam is Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College London, and a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Council that advises the G20 meetings. He has published 35 books. His most recent book is *The Heart of it All*. He has been Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields since 2012.

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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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory

trcnyc.org

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