



The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

TWENTY-FOURTH 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:

“The Bible says that when Jael killed Sisera, God subdued Israel’s enemy (Judges 4:23). Jael does not do what is expected of her. She violates hospitality. She violates her husband’s alliances. She violates gender roles—one of very few women in the Bible to kill anyone at all. Jael keeps her own counsel. She chooses to kill a violent oppressor, and by her act Israel ‘grows stronger and stronger’” (Judges 4:24).

-Sarah Jobe

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.

Bulletin Cover Image: *Jamie Sinclair*

 @pressuregrafix

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Harmony of Zion

John Know

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Two Selections from "Our Town"

Aaron Copland

I. Silence may be kept

Transcribed C. Johnson

II. The Peace may be exchanged

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: How remarkable is our God that provides hope when faith is weary.

All: Come, let us choose the hope that God provides.

One: Let us choose God's commitment to love unconditionally.

All: Come, let us choose God's love together.

One: In unity we find strength in the blessings that God bestows.

All: Strengthen our desire to unite as we gather to worship.

OPENING HYMN 552

Give Thanks, O Christian People

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day
Who heed the call to service and make it their life's way
To go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need
To work for equal justice, till all God's folk are freed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years
Who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,
To teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,
To lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,
Who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:
To share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,
To use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship
With all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:
To ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress,
To magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.**

INVOCATION

Minister Wingate

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

Amazing Day

Rebecca Thompson

Thank you God for this amazing day. Thank you God for work and play. For friends and family and animals too. On this amazing day! Look around us here, see God's holy spirit everywhere. There's happiness, gentleness, love, peace, joy, overflowing for all to see.

*The Riverside Rising Voices
Matthew Hommez, director
Yuliya Basis, pianist*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Phil Salmon

Judges 4:1-9a, 12-22

(pages 220 & 221 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

Under a Tree, On the Field, In a Tent

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Bruce Lamb

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lamb

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

Rev. Lamb

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Marilyn Mitchell

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Zion's Walls

Trad. American, arr. Aaron Copland

Come fathers and mothers, come sisters and brothers, come join us in singing the praises of Zion. O fathers, don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion? We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion.

Jessica Marsten, soprano Irene Ryan King, mezzo-soprano

David Jackson, tenor Jeremy Leung, 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 the ministry of our Church Council and many Commissions, as we elect new leaders and begin a new year of dreaming, planning, and discerning the many ways that we might be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

CLOSING HYMN 210

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past,

Our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast,

And our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,

Or earth received its frame,

From everlasting Thou art God,

To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight

Are like an evening gone;

Short as the watch that ends the night

Before the rising sun.

**Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccatà on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Craig Phillips

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Marilyn Mitchell & Phil Salmon

Featured on the cover left to right:

Sophia, Divine Wisdom by artist Mary Plaster “I depicted Lady Wisdom seated in the context of the entire Cosmos, beckoning us to inclusive and sustainable decision making that gently cooperates with the global community.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber Author and founding pastor of *House for All Sinners and Saints*, known for its ministry to those with drug addiction, depression, and those of other faiths.

Michelle Obama American attorney and author and the African-American First Lady of the United States, married to the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama.

Maya Angelou American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, best known for her series of autobiographies on her childhood experiences, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

Toni Morrison American novelist and essayist, and the first black female editor at Random House in New York City. Best celebrated for her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Beloved*.

Greta Thunberg Swedish environmental activist who has gained international recognition for promoting the view that humanity is facing an existential crisis arising from climate change.

Marilynne Robinson Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, on issues of religion and science, US history, nuclear pollution, John Calvin, and contemporary American politics.

Elinor Fosdick Downs American pediatrician and medical officer in the maternal and child health sector of the WHO, and daughter of Riverside’s Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Sharice Davids American attorney, former mixed martial artist, and politician serving as the U.S. Representative from Kansas, and the first openly LGBT Native American elected to the U.S.

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**](http://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**](http://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/online**](http://trcnyc.org/online) 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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