



The Riverside Church  
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*



FEBRUARY 14, 2021  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

“How do we prevent corruption in the Church? The answer is clear: by focusing on the poor.”

- Henri Nouwen

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## 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 Epiphany, as signified by green paraments and clergy stoles, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, hope, and eternal life.

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Healing Bells

*Pamela Reuter-Reenstra*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Arietta and Melody

*Samuel Coleridge-Taylor*

*Christopher Johnson, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Harper

One: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, God speaks to us.

**All: God comes and does not keep silent.**

One: Out of darkness, God calls for light.

**All: Let God's light shine on all that is hidden.**

One: From the silenced, God uses their voices.

**All: Let us hear God's Word through the voices of the silenced.**

### OPENING HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

*Jennings-Houston*

For the healing of the nations,  
God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

**You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.**

*Johnny Lee Green, tenor*

## INVOCATION

### LISTENING

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

## HEBREW LESSON

Lisa Cooke

2 Kings 5:1-14

*(page 336 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Healing from Below

### RESPONDING

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

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Debra Northern

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

*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. Northern

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Lisa Hinds

## OFFERTORY SOLO

L. O. V. E.

*Gan Family Rocks*

Here's a secret you might not know

The happy people we run the show

It's not the money or fancy stuff

Just four letters, all you need is...

(Chorus)

L.O.V.E. - Only happy no more tears

L.O.V.E. - Making people happy for a million years

L.O.V.E. - Lose the hate and rise above

L.O.V.E. - Love, love, love, love, love

Smile a little, Hug someone

Write a letter, blow a kiss, put away your guns

Not the power or playing tough

Just four letters all u need is...

Love grows one by one, two by two you know what to do

A friend to you is a friend to me, love is all around baby can't you see

That when it comes to the heart we're all on the same page

Size, color, creed age

Four letters, the meaning of... L.O.V.E. love

*Gan Family Rocks*

## 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

Rev. Northern

*Today we celebrate the ministry of Riverside's Tower League, a supportive, caring community of older adults that promotes the wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit as we age.*

## CLOSING HYMN 354

**Guide My Feet**

*Guide My Feet*

**Guide my feet while I run this race,**

**Guide my feet while I run this race,**

**Guide my feet while I run this race,**

**For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Hold my hand...**

**I'm Your child...**

**Guide my feet...**

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Harper

**POSTLUDE**

Postlude on "Deep River"

*David Hurd*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Lisa Cooke & Lisa Hinds*

## **Featured on the cover left to right:**

*Claudette Colvin* Arrested at the age of 15 in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded, segregated bus, nine months before the more widely known incident involving Rosa Parks.

*Misty Copeland* American ballet dancer for American Ballet Theatre, one of the three leading classical ballet companies in the United States. On June 30, 2015, Copeland became the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's 75-year history.

*Mae Jemison* American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She became the first black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

*Amanda S. C. Gorman* American poet and activist whose work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. First person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. On January 20, 2021, she delivered the poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of Joe Biden.

*Fannie Lou Hamer* Known for her use of spirituals and her resilience in leading the civil rights movement for black women in Mississippi. Despite enduring violent opposition, she helped thousands of African-Americans in Mississippi to become registered voters.

*Nina Simone* American singer, songwriter, musician, arranger, and civil rights activist. Simone performed and spoke at civil rights meetings, including the marches from Selma to Montgomery. Her song "Four Women" exposed the eurocentric appearance standards imposed on black women in America.

*Andrea Jenkins* American policy aide, politician, writer, performance artist, poet, and transgender activist. She is known for being the first black openly transgender woman elected to public office in the United States, serving since January 2018 on the Minneapolis City Council.

*Harmonia Rosales* Afro-Cuban American artist whose work explores Black female empowerment through art that challenges ideological hegemony in contemporary society, often reimagining Black heroines in classic Renaissance paintings as the main subject of the painting because "religion and power go hand in hand".

*Serena Williams* American professional tennis player and former world No. 1 in women's single tennis. She has used her platform to speak out about gender and racial equity and her personal struggles as a Black woman in tennis. The NAACP honored Williams with the President's Award at the annual NAACP Image Awards.

*Wangari Maathai* Kenyan social, environmental, and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize. In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights.

## **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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### **Pastoral and Program Staff**

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### **CONTACT US:**

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*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*



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