



The Riverside Church  
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*



FEBRUARY 28, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

# 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:

“The real names of our people were destroyed during slavery. The last name of my forefathers was taken from them when they were brought to America and made slaves, and then the name of the slave master was given, which we refuse, we reject that name today and refuse it. I never acknowledge it whatsoever.”

-Malcolm X

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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 of Lent, a period of forty days leading to Easter marked by repentance and reflection on everything in our lives that separates us from God. The liturgical color of Lent is purple as signified by the paraments, wall hanging, and clergy stoles (excepting communion Sundays when clergy wear white stoles).

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*arr. Carol Lens*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

In Quiet Mood

*Florence B. Price*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: Lent calls us to walk to the outer limits of our understandings.

**All: It is our time to seek out those things we do not know.**

One: Lent calls us to reflect upon our actions from the past and our future intentions.

**All: It is a time for waiting, silence, and contemplating.**

One: Through our covenant with God we are called to listen.

**All: Loving God, enhance our ears to hear the silenced in Your Word.  
Let us worship, welcoming God into our hearts together.**

### INVOCATION

#### OPENING HYMN

**Bring Many Names**

*Westchase*

**Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness in glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!**

**Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation genius at play:  
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!**

**Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:  
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!**

Old, aching God, gray with endless care,  
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:  
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

### LISTENING

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

## A MOMENT FOR LENT

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Livingston

One: Lord have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Refrain and Tone: Presbyterian 3



Praise\_\_\_ the Lord, Praise\_\_\_ the Lord,



Praise\_\_\_ the name of the Lord.

*Jessica Marsten, soprano*  
*David Jackson, tenor*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Desirée Baxter

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

*(page 13 in the New Testament)*

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

My Name Is...

*RESPONDING*

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

SONG

**Four Women**

*Nina Simone*

**My skin is black  
my arms are long  
My hair is woolly  
my back is strong  
Strong enough to take the pain  
inflicted again and again  
What do they call me?  
My name is Aunt Sarah  
My name is Aunt Sarah  
Aunt Sarah**

**My skin is yellow my hair is long  
Between two worlds I do belong  
But my father was rich and white  
He forced my mother late one night  
And what do they call me?  
My name is Saffronia  
My name is Saffronia**

**My skin is tan  
my hair is fine  
My hips invite you  
my mouth like wine  
Whose little girl am I?**

**Anyone who has money to buy  
What do they call me?  
My name is Sweet Thing  
My name is Sweet Thing**

**My skin is brown  
my manner is tough  
I'll kill the first mother I see!  
My life has been rough  
I'm awfully bitter these days  
because my parents were slaves  
What do they call me?  
My name is Peaches!**

*Shari Gill, mezzo-soprano  
Matt King, piano*

## 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.**

## 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. Livingston

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Lorraine Burchall

## OFFERTORY SOLO

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

*Nancy Wertsch*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

*Jessica Marsten, soprano*

*David Jackson, tenor*

## 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 Movies at Riverside, which shows thought-provoking movies on the last Sunday of each month, covering topics such as the environment and political conflicts. These movies are meant to raise questions on themes related to social justice and/or insight into the experiences of people whose stories are often unfamiliar.*

## LITANY FOR HEALING

Santiago Soto

One: As we go forth on this Lenten journey, may "healing" be our watchword, a healing based on truth and justice, grounded in the love of Christ Jesus, the Crucified One.

**All: O Christ, we rejoice that you are the Great Physician, by your wounds that we are healed.**

One: Heal our hurting Earth, nation, city, and church.

**All: By your wounds we are healed.**

One: Heal our weary spirits and broken hearts.

**All: By your wounds we are healed.**

One: Heal our ailing bodies and fractured minds.

**All: By your wounds we are healed.**

One: We give thanks for the hope of Resurrection, for the promise of renewal and healing.

**All: By your wounds we are healed.**

## OPENING HYMN 393

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

*Bourbon*

Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
If you would My disciple be;  
Take up your cross with willing heart,  
And humbly follow after Me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight  
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
And brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
And let your foolish heart be still;  
Thy Lord for you accepted death  
Upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,  
And calmly every danger brave:  
It guides you to abundant life  
And leads to victory o'er the grave.

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Keat

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata in B minor

*Eugene Gigout*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Desirée Baxter & Lorraine Burchall*

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



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