



The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

FEBRUARY 7, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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:

God, please, not patriarchy. God, please, not testosterone. God, please, not a white man with a beard. Not a man at all, not even Morgan Freeman.”

-Rev. Michael Livingston

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.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Variations on "Now Thank We All Our God"

Anton van Ooik

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Evening Song

David Hurd

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hsien-Yu Wang

One: Have you heard about the wonderful things our God has done?

All: Great is our God and abundant in power.

One: Our God names all of the stars and determines their number.

All: God created the heavens and all of the earth that lies under.

One: With our strongest voice let us sing and give our praise.

All: Let us worship our everlasting God for all of our days.

OPENING HYMN 440

In Christ There is No East or West

McKee

**In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close-binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

Russell Saint John, baritone

INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

HEBREW LESSON

Rannie McCants

Isaiah 40:21-31

(page 668 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Livingston

Mark 1:29-39

(page 35 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

God, Please

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Jennifer James Soto

OFFERTORY SOLO

Peace Like a River

arr. Fertil Family

I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got love like an ocean in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul.

Fertil Family (Ethan, Alexander and Athena)

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. Wang

Today we celebrate the work of the Sojourners Ministry, which works with people currently held in detention centers in the U.S., while petitioning for asylum and providing support to those recently released.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Following our petition, please join in the following response

One: Light of the world,

All: Hear our prayer.

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. Wang

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Livingston

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

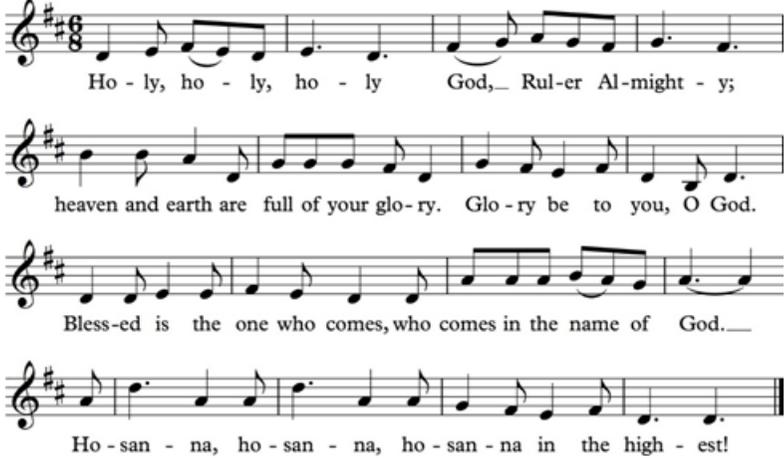
One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God...
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!

CLOSING HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Showalter

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *(Refrain)*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *(Refrain)*

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

March in F Major

Adolphus Hailstork

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Rannie McCants

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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