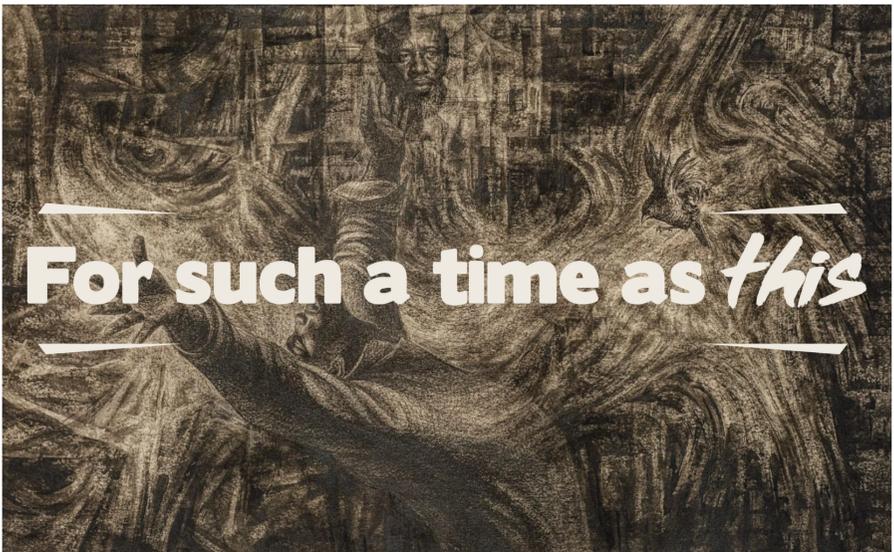


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 23, 2021
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:

“Pentecost invites us to ponder this question: Will we be vulnerable and willing to experience holy disorientation—as the disciples did during ancient days, and white and black worshipers at Azusa Street did in modern days—in order to announce a new humanity? Will we allow our voices to speak a language of good news that can be heard by all people...”

-Dr. Keri Day

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.

Bulletin cover image: “Oh Freedom!” by artist Charles White

Since his death, in 1979, the once renowned African-American artist has been eclipsed in reputation by two of his former students: David Hammons and Kerry James Marshall. This revelatory exhibition will change that, and not just because White is one of the finest draftsmen our country has ever produced. (Hammons made this point at the museum last year, when he paired White and Leonardo da Vinci in a two-person show.) Marshall nails the impact of White’s figurative oeuvre in the catalogue’s preface: “His most accomplished drawings achieve true perfection. The effect is dazzling, efficient, and never extravagant.” The restraint of the portraits White made in the course of three decades—whether his subject was Harry Belafonte, Harriet Tubman, or a street preacher in aviator shades—reminds us that dignity elevates politics. The urgency of his message—our shared humanity—could not arrive at a more critical time.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Sancti Spiritus

Geert D'hollander

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God
Veni Creator Spiritus

*Dietrich Buxtehude
Andrew Carter*

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Holy One, for all of the ways you speak to us In rushing wind, in dancing flames, in words we understand, and in all that transcends language, we give thanks. Give us courage to speak your love, everywhere we go, to everyone we meet. Let your Holy Spirit fill our hearts as we worship together in love.

INVOCATION

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.**

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Martha Wiggins

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

EPISTLE LESSON

Rev. Harper

Romans 8:22-27

(page 158 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

(offered in Yoruba, Chinese, and French)

Tunde Aboyade-Cole, Rev. Hsien-yu Wang, & Robert Mpoyo

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.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

We Need Pentecost

DANCE MEDITATION

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

Traditional Civil Rights Song

Johnny Chamness, dancer & choreographer

Irwin Reese, tenor

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Harper

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.

CHORAL 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

Eugene Melino

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, e'en the spirit of truth.

Liz Lang, soprano

Meghann Vaughan, alto

Erik Rasmussen, tenor

Christopher Judd, bass

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. Harper

Today we celebrate the work of our Stewardship Committee, which informs and inspires our practice of Christian stewardship through giving, serving, education, and fellowship.

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

Come, God Creator, Holy Ghost (BWV 667)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Dr. Martha Wiggins, Tunde Aboyade-Cole, Robert Mpoyo, & Eugene Melino

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Adapted from Intergenerational Prayer for Pentecost by Joanna Harader, and posted on Practicing Families. <http://practicingfamilies.com/>*

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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