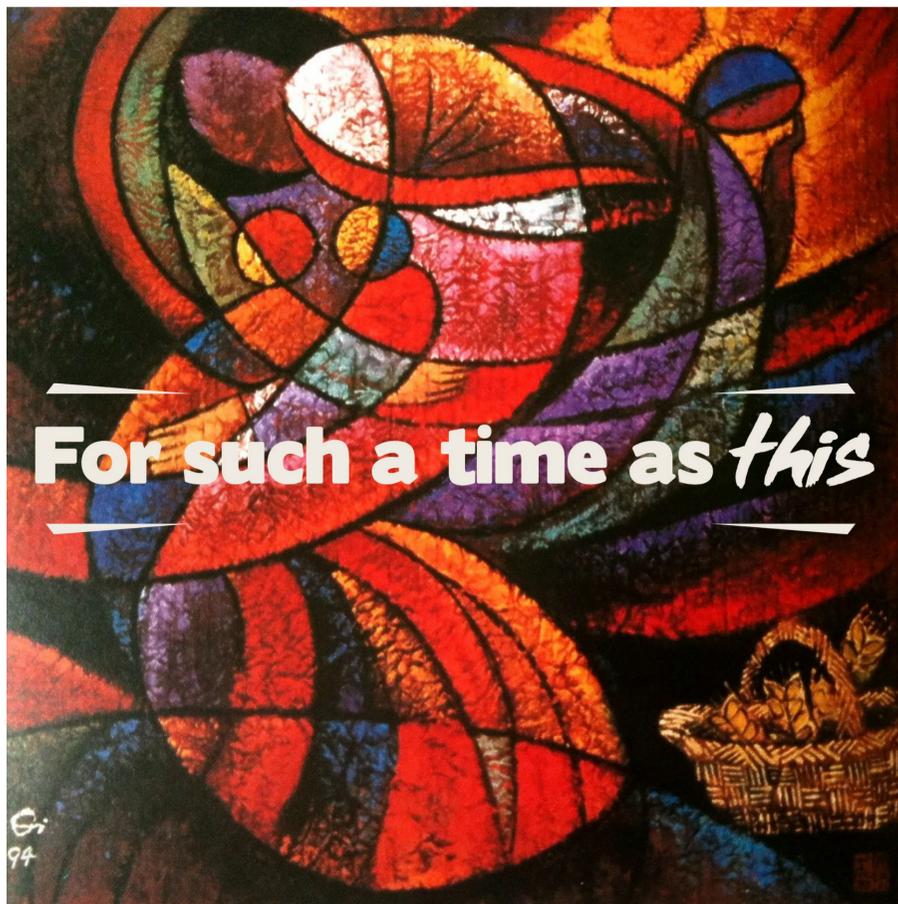


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 30, 2021
FIRST 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:

“Ruth announces a new way for the people of God. It is the way of surprising ever
expanding love.” -Willie James Jennings

testament

“in the beginning
was the word.
the year of our lord,
amen. i
lucille clifton
hereby testify
that in that room
there was a light
and in that light
there was a voice
and in that voice
there was a sigh
and in that sigh
there was a world.
a world a sigh a voice a light and
i
alone
in a room.”

*-testament by Lucille Clifton, from *How To Carry Water**

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: “Ruth & Naomi” by artist He Qi



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr

arr. Leen 't Hart

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

HANDBELLS

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Come thou Fount

Robert Jackson, arr. Jason W. Krug
J. Wyeth, arr. Jason W. Krug

The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Let us gather with gratitude for the Creator of Life.

All: Let us unite through God's love and the Holy Spirit.

One: With every tongue from every land, connect our lives to worship as one.

All: We unite as your people through God's perfect love and the Holy Spirit.

One: When you send forth your Spirit, all that you have created is renewed.

All: Let us be renewed as we come together to worship.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 138

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,

Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee

Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Hsien-Yu Wang

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Marcella Bullmaster-Day

Ruth 1:15-18

(page 241 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Rev. Livingston

Acts 10:44-48

(page 130 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HANDBELLS

At the Table

arr. Jason W. Krug

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings

Ruth's Way

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Wang

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 in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your 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.

Save us from the time of trial, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom, 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

Jacqueline Hopkins

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whoso believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Jasmine Ismail, soprano

Irene King, alto

Matthew Krenz, tenor

Russell Saint John, 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. Wang

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Church Council, Commissions and Committees as they 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 314

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Bridegroom

Like the murmur of the dove's song,

Like the challenge of her flight,

Like the vigor of the wind's rush,

Like the new flame's eager might:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**To the members of Christ's Body,
To the branches of the Vine,
To the church in faith assembled,
To her midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division,
With the ceaseless voice of prayer,
With the power of love and witness,
With the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

March in D

Alexandre Guilmant

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Marcella Bullmaster-Day & Jacqueline Hopkins



Rev. Dr. Willie James Jennings is currently Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University Divinity School.

Dr. Jennings was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Jennings received his B.A. in Religion and Theological Studies from Calvin College (1984), his M.Div. (Master of Divinity degree) from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena California, and his Ph.D. degree from Duke University. Dr. Jennings who is a systematic

theologian teaches in the areas of theology, black church and Africana studies, as well as post-colonial and race theory. Dr. Jennings is the author of *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* published by Yale University Press. It is one of the most important books in theology written in the last 25 years and is now a standard text read in colleges, seminaries, and universities. Dr. Jennings is also the recipient of the 2015 Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his groundbreaking work on race and Christianity. Dr. Jennings recently authored commentary on the Book of Acts won the Reference Book of the Year Award, from The Academy of Parish Clergy. He is also the author of *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*, which is the inaugural book in the much anticipated book series, *Theological Education between the Times*, and has already become an instant classic, winning the 2020 book of the year award from Publisher's Weekly. And now Dr. Jennings is hard at work on a book on the doctrine of creation, tentatively entitled, "Reframing the World."

In addition to being a frequent lecturer at colleges, universities, and seminaries, Dr. Jennings is also a regular workshop leader at pastor conferences. He is also a consultant for the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, and for the Association of Theological Schools.

He served along with his wife, the Reverend Joanne L. Browne Jennings as associate ministers at the Mount Level Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina, and for many years, they served together as interim pastors for several Presbyterian and Baptist churches in North Carolina. They are the parents of two wonderful daughters, Njeri and Safiya Jennings.

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.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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