



**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

JULY 11, 2021  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# 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:

“In the July issue of *The Atlantic*, George Packer writes of “four Americas” whose “competing visions of the country’s purpose are tearing it apart.” As long as the dominant caste in America fears losing hold of its order, its heart can never hold democracy dear. Yet what order but the democratic can confess that God makes “no distinction between them and us,” as Peter put it long ago? What fear drives so many of our kin to their despairs?”

-Rev. Stephen Phelps

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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 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.

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

O Jesus, With us Abide

*arr. Gert Oldenbeuwing*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Cantabile, from Symphonie VIII

*Charles Marie Widor*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Livingston

One: God of compassion, we worship you, even as we pray for the vulnerable among us.

**All: Challenge us to be generous in our care now, in this time and place.**

One: God of gentleness, we praise you, even as we pray for the disadvantaged among us.

**All: Confront us with the pain of others, so we can help to bring healing.**

One: God of justice, we come seeking your guidance in how we can best serve you and all people in need.

**All: Inspire us with compassion, empathy, and enduring care as we listen closely to the Word of God. Come, Let us worship!**

### INVOCATION

#### OPENING HYMN 491

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

*Carlisle*

Stand up and bless the Lord,  
Ye people of God's choice;  
Stand up and bless the Lord your God  
With heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise,  
Above all blessing high,  
Who would not fear God's holy name,  
And laud and magnify?

O for the living flame  
From God's own altar brought,  
To touch our lips, our minds inspire,  
And wing to heaven our thought!

**God is our strength and song,  
Now is salvation ours;  
Then be God's love in Christ proclaimed  
With all our ransomed powers  
Stand up and bless the Lord;  
The Lord your God adore;  
Stand up and bless God's glorious name;  
Henceforth forevermore.**

### *LISTENING*

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

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

*In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.*

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Annah Heckman

Amos 7:7-15

*(pages 855 & 856 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Rev. Harper

Acts 15:6-12

*(page 134 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

Rev. Stephen Phelps

All the Assembly Kept Silence

### *RESPONDING*

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

### **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 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.**

## 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

Barbara Mellor

## OFFERTORY SOLO

How Great O Lord

*Julius Benedict*

How great O lord is thy goodness, which thou hast laid upon me. Thou hast shewn me the path of life, and inclined my heart to thee, to walk in thy way; thy way is the way of pleasantness, and all thy paths are peace.

*Jeremy Leung, baritone*

## 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 Riverside's communications ministry. We all encounter God in different ways as we continue to find new digital ways to connect with God and with one another through Zoom calls, podcasts, videos, and social media. Riverside's communications ministry connects with over 25,000 people across the country and around the world.*

## CLOSING HYMN 298

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

*In Babilone*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,**

**Like the wideness of the sea;**

**There's a kindness in God's justice,**

**Which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows**

**Are more felt than up in heaven;**

**There is no place where earth's failings**

**Have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of the mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
We would gladly trust God's word;  
And our lives reflect thanksgiving  
For the goodness of our Lord.**

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

*Allegro Moderato*

*John Stanley*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Annah Heckman & Barbara Mellor*



**Rev. Stephen H. Phelps**, ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), served as Interim Senior Minister of The Riverside Church in New York City, 2011- 2014. He speaks and writes on themes of social justice and the development of consciousness with a particular focus on ending mass incarceration. He and his wife Dr. Beth Mount live in New York City.

## **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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**Rev. Michael Livingston**  
Interim Senior Minister  
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

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### **Pastoral and Program Staff**

**Meighan Corbett**  
Director of Stewardship & Development  
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Creaghan**  
Associate Organist  
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper**  
Minister of Older Adults  
lharper@trcnyc.org

**Rich Glassey**  
Executive Director of Operations  
rglassey@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Johnson**  
Director of Music and Organist  
cjohnson@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Jim Keat**  
Digital Minister  
jkeat@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Bruce Lamb**  
Minister of Faith Formation  
blamb@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer**  
Minister of Children & Families  
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Debra Northern**  
Minister of Parish Care  
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

**Carrie Quarqueso**  
Coordinator for Worship & Arts  
cqarqueso@trcnyc.org

### **CONTACT US:**

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

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



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