

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
FIFTEENTH 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:

“Labor Day is often a marker of the definitive end of summer and the beginning of Fall church and school programming. But how often has the actual significance of Labor Day been emphasized in our worshipping communities, and how often have congregations been encouraged to examine the relationship between faith and labor, of the plight of working people in our communities and among our pews? As we still grapple with the impact of the pandemic on all who have to work for a living, we cannot let Labor Day pass us by without critically examining our faith in light of our oppressive economic and political systems that trample upon both people and planet.”

-Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice, Vanderbilt University

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.

Whats happening at Riverside?

Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below.



Give by your phone

Make an offering using your smartphone by opening your camera and scanning the code below.

Or text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Take From us, You, Faithful God

arr. Jasper Stam

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Suite Liturgique

Denis Bédard

I. Entrée II. Offertoire III. Communion

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Min. Richard X III

One: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

All: We follow Christ's example and learn from one another!

One: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

All: We follow Christ's example and learn from one another!

One: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together.

All: Come! Let us follow Christ's example and learn from one another as we gather together in worship.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 263

Please meditate silently on the hymn and refrain from singing.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Debra Northern

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Pat Pell

Isaiah 35:1-10

(page 663 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Min. X

James 2:1-10, 14-17

(pages 229 & 230 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

God's Choice

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Areliis Figueroa

OFFERTORY SOLO

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Edwin T. Childs

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, thy child let me be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; thou my inheritance, now and always. Thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Kimberly Walton, mezzo-soprano

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

Min. X

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Welcome Center/Gift Shop, which offers hospitality to all – visitors, members, and staff, and provides items for sale that support the various programs and promote the general mission of our church and faith community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Livingston

Following our petition, please join in the following response:

One: O Merciful God,
All: **hear our prayer.**

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

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Northern

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

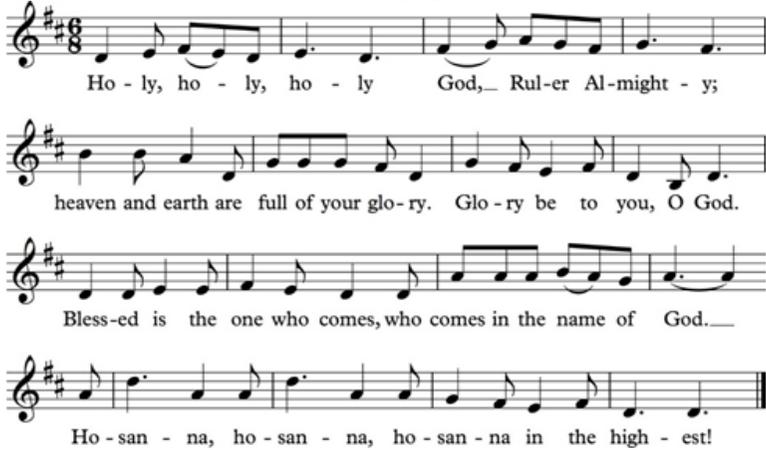
One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**

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

Please meditate silently, and refrain from singing.

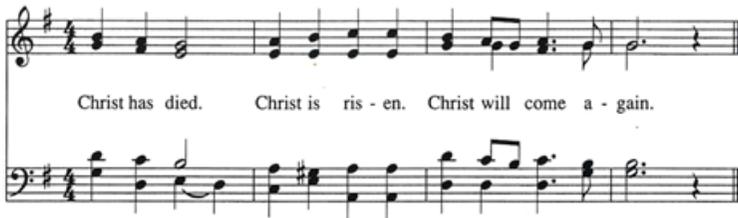


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God...
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Please meditate silently, and refrain from singing.



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!

The ushers will distribute single serve cups containing both juice and a small wafer sealed in between the plastic film on the top. We will lower our masks briefly to take communion together, then replace our masks over our nose and mouth. For the safety of our staff and volunteers, we ask that you please hold onto your empty cups until the end of the service, and dispose of them safely in the trash cans provided as you exit the Nave.

CLOSING HYMN 386

Please meditate silently on the hymn and refrain from singing.

O For a World

Azmon

O for a world where everyone
Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done
With justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
And misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared,
Equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
And struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity
And gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
The foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
Who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more,
And all but love will cease.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

A Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Pat Pell & Arelis Figueroa

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Adapted from <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost-15-september-5/>*

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.

PARKING - 09/01/2021

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 6:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

CONNECT WITH US.

Rev. Michael Livingston

Interim Senior Minister
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

Pastoral and Program Staff

Meighan Corbett

Director of Stewardship & Development
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

Christopher Creaghan

Interim Director of Music and Organist
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Minister of Older Adults
lharper@trcnyc.org

Rich Glassey

Executive Director of Operations
rglassey@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 Quarquesso

Coordinator for Worship & Arts
cquarquesso@trcnyc.org

Min. Richard X III

Assistant Minister of Faith Formation
rx@trcnyc.org

CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email communications@trcnyc.org.

For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK