

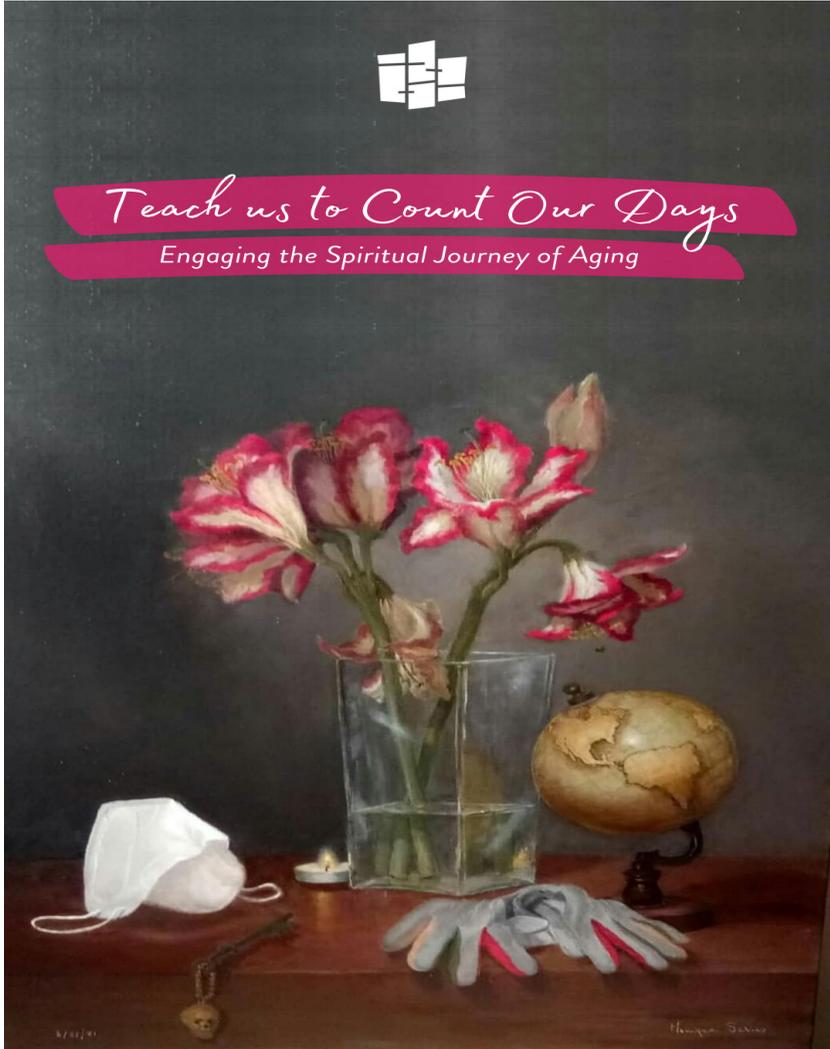
# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



*Teach us to Count Our Days*

*Engaging the Spiritual Journey of Aging*



MAY 15, 2022  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# 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 your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote:

“May I suggest that [our] potential for change and growth is much greater than we are willing to admit and that old age be regarded not as the age of stagnation but as the age of opportunities for inner growth?”

*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*

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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 of Eastertide, a period of 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ until Pentecost. The liturgical color of Eastertide is white, which symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death, as signified by the paraments and clergy stoles.

### 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.



Following industry standard, Riverside has secured rapid onsite COVID testing services for the health and safety of performers singing together, allowing us to permit unmasked singing. All performers will remain masked at all other times, but will unmask for anthems and singing in the chancel.



## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Prelude, Fugue, Chorale and Variations on 'Sing Praise to God'  
*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

Ludo Geloën

### ORGAN

Fidelis  
Harmonies du Soir

*Alan Montgomery, organist*

*Percy Whitlock  
Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### †PROCESSIONAL HYMN 479

**Praise, My Soul, The God of Heaven**

*Lauda Anima*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

One: Let everyone who has breath, celebrate our God.

**All: Celebrate the gift of life, celebrate the gift of wisdom.**

One: Sing praises to the One who commanded all creation.

**All: Count every lyric as a blessing, a testament of God's love.**

One: Let us praise our God, the author of grace.

**All: Let us worship our God, the composer of joy.**

### †INVOCATION

†*All who are able, please stand*

## ANTHEM

### I Will Call Upon the Lord

*Luke Winslow-King*

You can lean on me brother. I believe you've carried too long. It's such a long, long way back home. You can lean on me sister. I believe you've carried too long. It's such a long, long way back home. We're just leaning on the everlasting arms. I've been leaning on the everlasting arms. It's such a long, long way back home. You can lean on me stranger. I believe you've carried too long. It's such a long, long way back home. Oh, my dear sister am I not a brother to you? I know, I know, make it through. We're just leaning on the everlasting arms. It's such a long, long way back home. We're leaning.

*The Riverside Inspirational Choir*

*Nedra Olds-Neal, director*

*Matt King, piano*

*Tash Neal, guitar, vocal*

*Shari Gill, vocal*

*Joe Beaty, trombone*

*Belden Bullock, bass*

*Jonathan Peretz, drums*

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS** Rev. Livingston, Rev. Casteel Harper, Hillary Puckett

***We welcome you with joy and friendship into the common life of The Riverside Church.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's love and  
grace and be witnesses of our risen Savior.***



Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love:  
The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.

## LISTENING

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

+ *All who are able, please stand*

## Teach Us to Count our Days: A Responsive Prayer

Minister Derrick Jordan

Ancient of Days, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**Consecrate our passing years that our experiences may turn into wisdom.**

When we are tempted to worship at the “fountain of youth,” call us back to your living waters.

**Forgive us when we discount ourselves and others based on age, ability, or appearance.**

From Generation to Generation, You are Our God.

**Thank you for mentors, grandparents, and other sages who show us the way of love, faith, and justice.**

Your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.

**Help us to nurture Beloved Community by welcoming the gifts of people at every age and stage of life.**

Rock of Ages, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**Help us to create a world where we all can live out our days with respect, security, and dignity. Amen.**

## †HYMN

### Rock of Ages

*Toplady*



1. Rock of A - ges cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
2. Not the la - bors of my hands, Can ful - fill Thy law's de - mands;  
3. No - thing in my hand I bring, Sim - ply to the cross I cling;  
4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eyes shall close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy wound - ed side which flowed,  
These for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone:  
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
When I rise to worlds un - known, And be - hold Thee on Thy throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.  
In my hand no price I bring, Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sa - vior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

† All who are able, please stand

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Luke 2:25-38**

(pg. 59 in the New Testament)

Maggie Jones

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Simeon and Anna: Kicking the Bucket List

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

## RESPONDING

*We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer,*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Casteel 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 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, deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## CHORAL AMEN

## †PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Hylde Clark

†*All who are able, please stand*

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

### **Let All the World**

*Robert Baker*

Let all the world in every corner sing, "my God and king!" The heavens are not too high, God's praise may thither fly! The earth is not too low, such praises there may grow. The church with psalms must shout; no door can keep them out! But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.

*Nancy Wertsch, conductor  
Rachel Rosales, soprano  
Manami Hattori, mezzo-soprano  
Juan Jose Ibarra, baritone*

## **✠ AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY**

*The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.*

**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. Casteel Harper*

*Today we celebrate the work of our Business and Professional Women's Group, which encourages fellowship among business and professional women, while educating the Riverside community about issues unique to women. The B's & P's offer cultural, social, and service opportunities to promote spiritual growth and renewal for the church and community.*

**✠** *All who are able, please stand*

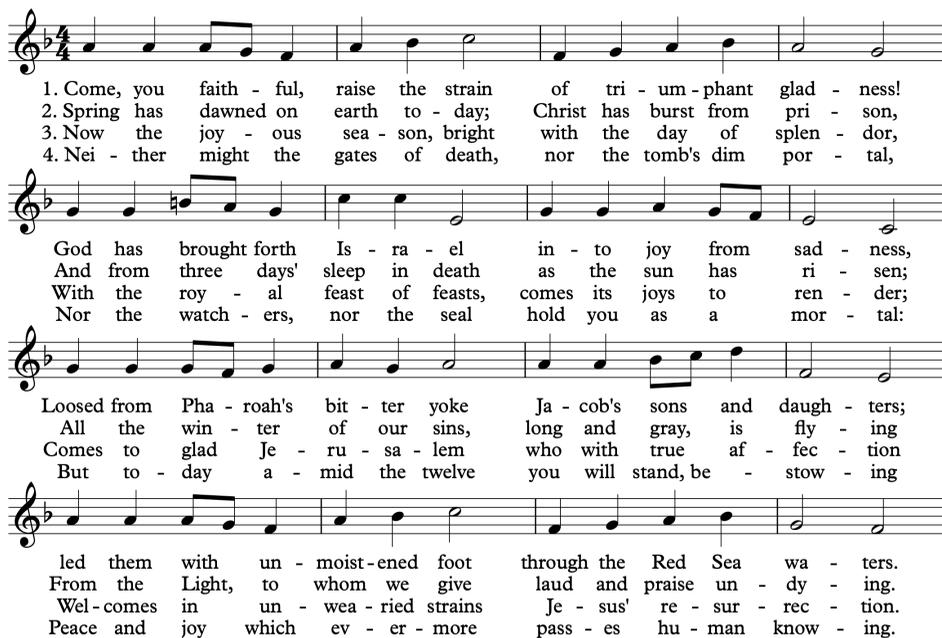
## SENDING

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

### +RECESSIONAL HYMN

#### Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain

St. Kevin



1. Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2. Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pri - son,  
3. Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4. Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ri - sen;  
With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;  
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:

Loosed from Pha - roah's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing  
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion  
But to - day a - mid the twelve you will stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
Wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.  
Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

### +BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

#### POSTLUDE

Sinfonia, from Cantata 29

Johann Sebastian Bach, transcr. Marcel Dupré

Alan Montgomery, organist

Special thanks to our congregational leaders Maggie Jones, Hylida Clark & Hillary Puckett

+All who are able, please stand

Amy Jill Levine Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University of Religion and Peace and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, at Vanderbilt. Her publications include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*; six children's books (with Sandy Sasso); *The Gospel of Luke* (with Ben Witherington III, the first biblical commentary by a Jew and an Evangelical); *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (co-edited with Marc Brettler), *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* (with Marc Brettler), *The Pharisees* (co-edited with Joseph Sievers), and thirteen edited volumes of the *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Literature*. Along with Introduction to the Old Testament for the Teaching Company, her study guides include *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*; *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*, and *Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. The first Jew to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute, and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, AJ describes herself as an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who seeks to correct anti-Jewish, sexist, and other harmful interpretations of the Bible.



Painter Monique Serres is an active member of The Riverside Church, including the Tower League. Monique joined the church in 1990, but has been involved since 1971. A native of Port-au-Prince, Monique is a graduate of Fashion Institute of Technology (Textile Design, Interior Design) and a life-member of the Art Students League. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries both in New York City and internationally, including West Side Arts Coalition, Cork gallery Lincoln Center, Hudson Guild Gallery, Marina Tsevetava Museum, Moscow, Russia; Royal Canberra Show, Australia. The featured image in Riverside's Older Adult Series is Monique's "Still life on the pandemic," which speaks to the fragility and sacredness of life and the need to love and protect our neighbors during the pandemic.



## **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

## **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.

## **JOIN OUR WEEKLY SERMON TALKBACK**

Go deeper with the sermons from The Riverside Church every Sunday after worship for a sermon talkback as part of Virtual Coffee Hour. Visit [trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour](http://trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour) to join us online or go to 311 MLK to join us in person. If you are unable to join the live conversation you can listen to After the Amen, our weekly sermon talkback podcast, as Riverside clergy and congregants talk with Sunday's preacher about how their sermon resonates in our lives and in our world. Visit [trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen](http://trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen) to listen now.

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) 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!

## **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://trcnyc.org/app) to download the app and stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS**

Fall and Winter 2022 Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 p.m. and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals](http://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.

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PARKING - 05/15/2022

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 11:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

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## CONNECT WITH US.

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

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[trcnyc.org](http://trcnyc.org)



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