

The Riverside Church  
in the City of New York



**GOD IS  
LOVE**



JUNE 26, 2022  
THIRD 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 your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote:

“Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me.”

*Zora Neale Hurston*

## 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 Ordinary Time or Time after Pentecost, a season in which we explore the mission of the church and use the color of green, symbolizing growth.

### **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

Love is Love is Love is  
Passacaglia on Amazing Grace

*Pamela Ruiter-Feenstre  
Lloyd Lott*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Pavane  
Adagio  
Melody in Mauve

*Robert Elmore  
Daniel Ficarri  
Richard Purvis*

*Alan Montgomery, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Bruce Lamb

### †CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Lamb

One: God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

**All: To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.**

One: Jesus says: Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me.

**All: The Spirit says, "Come." Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come," for all are welcome here.**

One: Let us worship God!

<sup>1</sup> From St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, OK, More Light Sunday, 2005

†*All who are able, please stand*

## †INVOCATION

## †PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### **Joyful People, Come and Worship!**<sup>2</sup>

*Ode to Joy*

Joyful people, come and worship! Lift your happy hearts in song  
Giving praise for our church family in God's house, where all belong  
Celebrating our uniqueness filled with love and pride today,  
Forth we travel on faith's journey, we, who once had turned away.

And today we lift our voices; of amazing love we sing,  
Giving thanks and praise to Yahweh for the joy that love can bring!  
Praising Jesus and the Spirit, singing of amazing grace,  
Here we see that same sweet Spirit, on each sister's, brother's face.

God, whose mercies know no boundaries heard our cries for liberty;  
Broke the chains of fear that bound us, lifted, loved, and set us free!  
Learning how to love each other, how to live and how to grow,  
Children of God's new creation, onward, upward now we go!

## †PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Keat

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

## †WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### **SOLO**

### **Ineffable Joy**

*Richard Pearson Thomas*

*David Orcutt, baritone*

### **LISTENING**

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

2 Words by Rev. June Norris © 1987. alt. with permission, *The Hymnal Project*, © 1990 MCC San Francisco.

† All who are able, please stand

# EPISTLE LESSON

## Galatians 4:28-5:1

(pg. 194 in the New Testament)

Eva Cordero

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### †HYMN 563

## Our God is Like an Eagle<sup>3</sup>

*Merle's Tune*



1. When Is - rael camped in Si - nai, then Mo - ses heard from God:  
2. Just like a mo - ther ea - gle, who helps her young to fly,  
3. If God is like an ea - gle who helps her young to fly,  
4. Our God is not a wo - man, our God is not a man;



"This mes - sage tell my peo - ple, and give them this, my word:  
I am a mo - ther to you, your needs will I sup - ply;  
And God is al - so Fa - ther, what then of you and I?  
Our God is both and nei - ther, our God is I Who Am.



From E - gypt I was with you, and car - ried on my wing,  
And you are as my chil - dren, the ones who hear my voice,  
We have no fear of la - bels, we have no fear of roles--  
From all the roles that bind us our God has set us free.



The whole of your great na - tion from sla - very I did bring.  
I am a mo - ther to you, the peo - ple of my choice."  
If Go'ds own be - ing blends them we seek the self - same goals.  
What free - dom does God give us? The free - dom just to be.

<sup>3</sup> Words by Laurence G, Bernier (1974)

† All who are able, please stand

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Luke 5:33-39**

(pg. 63 in the New Testament)

Reginald Evans

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

The Sobbing School Dropout Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

### RESPONDING

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

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lamb

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.**

## †PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Don Bickford

†*All who are able, please stand*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### **The Tree of Life**

*K. Lee Scott*

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations; Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty. Its name is Jesus, name that says "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering; see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood. Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it. Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it. See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing." This is my ending, this my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy. All heaven is singing "Thanks to Christ, whose Passion offers in mercy, healing strength and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Savior!

## ✠ 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. Keat*

*Today we celebrate the ministry of Maranatha, which for over forty years has worked to provide a safe and welcoming haven where lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gay, and queer people can be their whole selves, find healing community, and share their God-given gifts in faith and love.*

### *SENDING*

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

✠ *All who are able, please stand*

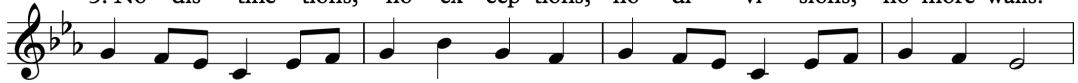
# † RECESSIONAL HYMN

## In Your Heart, O God, You Hold Us<sup>4</sup>

*Pleading Savior*



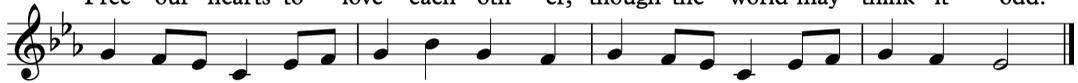
1. In your heart, O God, you hold us-- ev - 'ry one, from ev - 'ry land.  
2. To be - hold you in each per - son is our first and great - est task;  
3. No dis - tinc - tions, no ex - cep - tions, no di - vi - sions, no more walls.



Ev - 'ry face re - flects your im - age; oh! that we would un - der - stand!  
lov - ing all, as you have loved us, say - ing "yes" to all you ask.  
In your love, O God, you free us-- cruel - ty crum - bles, ha - tred falls.



From the dust you shaped and formed us; by your breath you gave us birth.  
Yet, O God, our vi - sion fal - ters-- ha - tred dulls and dims our sight.  
Free our hearts to love each oth - er, though the world may think it odd.



Gra - cious God, your love is bound - less; ev - 'ry one has sa - cred worth.  
Greed dis - torts and fear dis - fig - ures-- pierce these shad - ows by your light.  
We must love God's peo - ple al - ways if we say that we love God.

# † BENEDICTION

Rev. Lamb

## POSTLUDE

March in C

*Daniel Ficarri*

*Alan Montgomery, organist*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders Reginald Evans, Eva Cordero, Julian Wharton & Don Bickford*



**Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart** is a Black-queer church girl, preacher, teacher, and activist. In 2020 she founded Salt | Yeast | Light, a ministry grounded in spiritual candor, political disruption, deep reflection, radical action, and communal transformation. Much of her work has centered around affirming queer faith/spiritualities and eradicating faith-based policies that undermine the rights of LGBTQ+ people. From 2016-2019, she served as the Faith Work Director at the National LGBTQ Task Force, where she trained hundreds of LGBTQ+ people of faith and our cis-het comrades in faith-rooted organizing and advocacy for LGBTQ+ justice.

Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart currently serves as the Director for Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs for the city of Philadelphia. In this role, she serves as a public-facing leader, liaison, and subject matter expert for the Mayor's Office on local and national matters that impact diverse communities of faith. She also manages the Mayor's Commission on Interfaith Affairs.

Rev. Naomi also serves as an adjunct professor of theology & religious studies at Villanova University where she teaches a variety of courses, including two that she designed: "Do Black Lives Matter to God? A Theological Exploration of Race, Suffering, and Resistance" and "Agitating for Justice: Faith-Rooted Community Organizing." Rev. Naomi is often invited to lecture and consult for various student and faculty groups within the University, and as a multifaith advisor to Campus Ministry, Naomi directs the Villanova Gospel Choir and preaches in ecumenical worship services.

Rev. Naomi was recently named to the Pride Power 100 List for 2022 by City & State PA and she was also featured as one of the Champions of Pride 2021 From The Mid-Atlantic in The Advocate Magazine! The Advocate's Champions of Pride 2021 are the unsung heroes who are making inroads for LGBTQ+ people in their fields of work and in their communities every day despite the risks or challenges.

## **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 VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR 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 9T 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/](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**

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/](http://trcnyc.org/) CarillonRecitals for the complete schedule.

## **SUMMER CHOIR AT RIVERSIDE**

Do you sing? Read music? Love choral music? If so, we invite you to sing with members of the Riverside Choir this summer! Rehearsals are on Sunday morning and you can join us for however many Sundays you wish. To apply please email Associate Organist Alan Montgomery at [amontgomery@trcnyc.org](mailto:amontgomery@trcnyc.org) with a brief cell phone recording of you singing one verse of your favorite hymn (don't worry about a perfect performance), and a brief description of your musical experience, and he will get back to you. We look forward to hearing from you!

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PARKING - 06/26/2022

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.

**Rev. Michael Livingston**  
Interim Senior Minister  
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### Pastoral and Program Staff

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

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