

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



Follow the Leader

 Lent 2023

MARCH 26, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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 these quotes and question:

“Whoever does not love trees, does not love God.”

-Elder Amphilochios of Patmos

“All important ideas must include the trees, the mountains, and the rivers.”

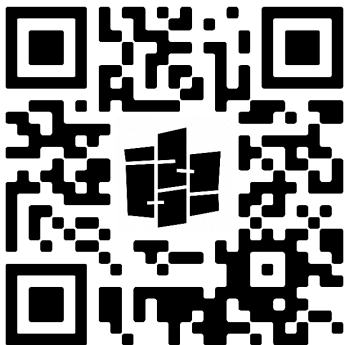
-Mary Oliver

A question for reflection:

In what ways are people like trees?

What's happening at Riverside?

You can find a printed calendar listed in the back of your bulletin!



Give by your phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035.



*Riverside worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online.
If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos we invite you to sit in the balcony.*



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Prelude and Fugue, BWV 998
Sinfonia, from Cantata 156

Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Geert Oldenbeuwing
Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Gerald Martindale

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Allegro, from Symphonie No. 6

Charles-Marie Widor

Alan Montgomery, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Bruce Lamb

✚PROCESSIONAL HYMN 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Charlene Wingate

One: We gather today in awe of Christ's wondrous love.

All: A love for humanity that steered him to the cross.

One: Through Christ's journey we witness betrayal and fear.

All: We also find love and light that guides us to justice.

One: As this Lenten journey draws near to its end, be with us O God;

All: Strengthen our hearts to courageously face life's hard truths.

Let us breathe in your Holy Spirit and worship!

✚INVOCATION

✚*All who are able, please stand*

ANTHEM

I Know Something About God's Grace

Patrick D. Bradley

I know something about God's grace. It could have been me with no food to eat. It could have been me with no place to sleep but for the grace of God. One witness testify that you couldn't have made it without the grace of God. Protecting, healing, covering grace. Couldn't have made it, Lord, couldn't have made it without Your grace.

*The Inspirational Choir
Nedra Olds-Neal, director
Ramona Dunlap, soprano
Matt King, piano*

MOMENT FOR LENT

Regina Tate

During this liturgical season, lay leaders of Riverside will offer prayers of lament. Today's lament is offered by the Mission and Social Justice Commission.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 91²

Michel Guimont



Be with me, Lord, when I am in trou - ble.

Jessica Marsten, cantor

LISTENING

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

PSALTER LESSON

Jocelyn Perry

Psalm 1

(pg. 490 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

¹Music: Refrain, Michele Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and podcast under OneLicense.net #A-717132

†HYMN 388

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Angel's Story

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:23-25

(pg. 69 in the New Testament)

Rev. Dr. Robert Paul Hartley

One: This is the gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

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.

†*All who are able, please stand*

✚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

Henry Williams

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

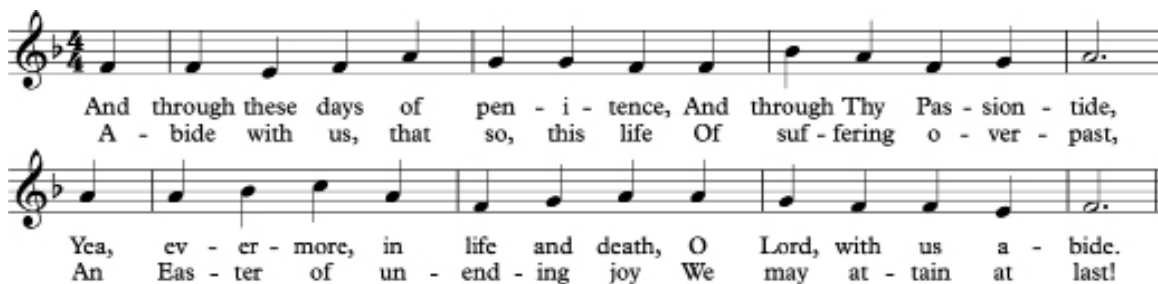
Let Us Love in Deed and Truth

Larry King

If you and I have the world's goods, and see our neighbors in need. Yet we close our hearts against them, how does God's love abide in us? Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth. We have confidence before our God, and we receive whatever we ask, because we keep Her commandments, and do what pleases Her. And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another.

✚AT THE PRESENTATION: Through These Days of Penitence

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



And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas - sion - tide,
A - bid with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bid.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

Today we celebrate the work of our Prison Ministry, which conducts advocacy and outreach programs on behalf of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and their communities.

✚All who are able, please stand

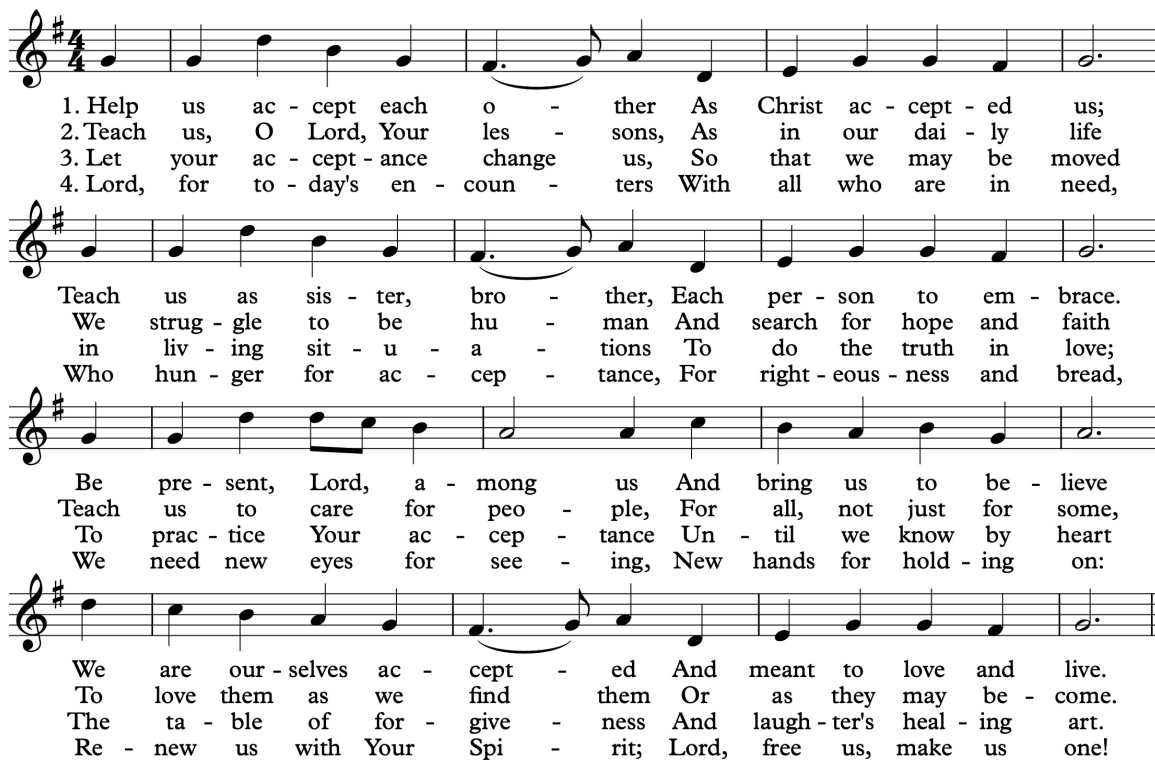
SENDING

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

+RECESSIONAL HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein



1. Help us ac - cept each o - ther As Christ ac - cept - ed us;
2. Teach us, O Lord, Your les - sons, As in our dai - ly life
3. Let your ac - cept - ance change us, So that we may be moved
4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters With all who are in need,
Teach us as sis - ter, bro - ther, Each per - son to em - brace.
We strug - gle to be hu - man And search for hope and faith
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions To do the truth in love;
Who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, For right - eous - ness and bread,
Be pre - sent, Lord, a - mong us And bring us to be - lieve
Teach us to care for peo - ple, For all, not just for some,
To prac - tice Your ac - cept - tance Un - til we know by heart
We need new eyes for see - ing, New hands for hold - ing on:
We are our - selves ac - cept - ed And meant to love and live.
To love them as we find them Or as they may be - come.
The ta - ble of for - give - ness And laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
Re - new us with Your Spi - rit; Lord, free us, make us one!

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Carvalhaes, Rev. Meisenheimer

POSTLUDE

Intermezzo, from Symphonie No. 6

Charles-Marie Widor

Christopher Creaghan, organist

Special thanks to our congregational leaders Jocelyn Perry & Rev. Dr. Robert Paul Hartley

+All who are able, please stand

FOLLOW THE LEADER

The childhood game of “Follow the Leader” invites players to mimic the actions of a designated leader, to watch closely and do what they do in order to win. As disciples of Christ, we, too, are invited to Follow the Leader—to watch and mirror the spiritual practices and commitments of Jesus. While this is not a game we “win,” it is a daily challenge to enter deeper into the heart of worship, community, and prayer. During this Lenten season, we will focus on Following the Leader, as we journey with Jesus on the road of love and justice, on the way from death to new life. In a culture where authority is too often abused and power is misused, let us deepen our commitment to following the Crucified Christ, the One True Authority.

Visit trcnyc.org/Lent to find out more.

The image on the cover is a panel from the Christ and Humanity window. Turn to the back of the bulletin to learn more about this window.



Originally from Brazil, **Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes** is an artist, liturgist and eco-theologian. Currently, he is the Professor of Worship at Union Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Praying with Every Heart: Orienting Our Lives to the Wholeness of the World*. Married to Katie, they have three children.

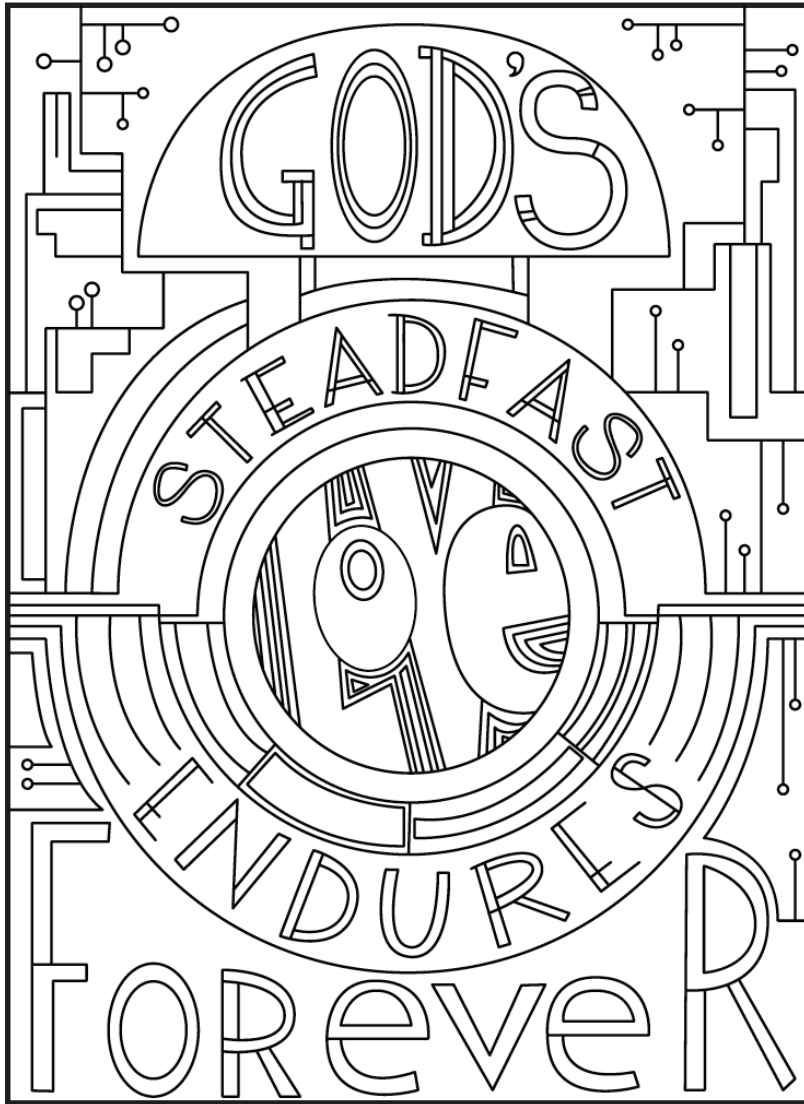
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 43, Philippians 3, John 12.



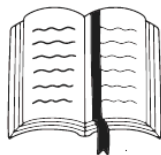
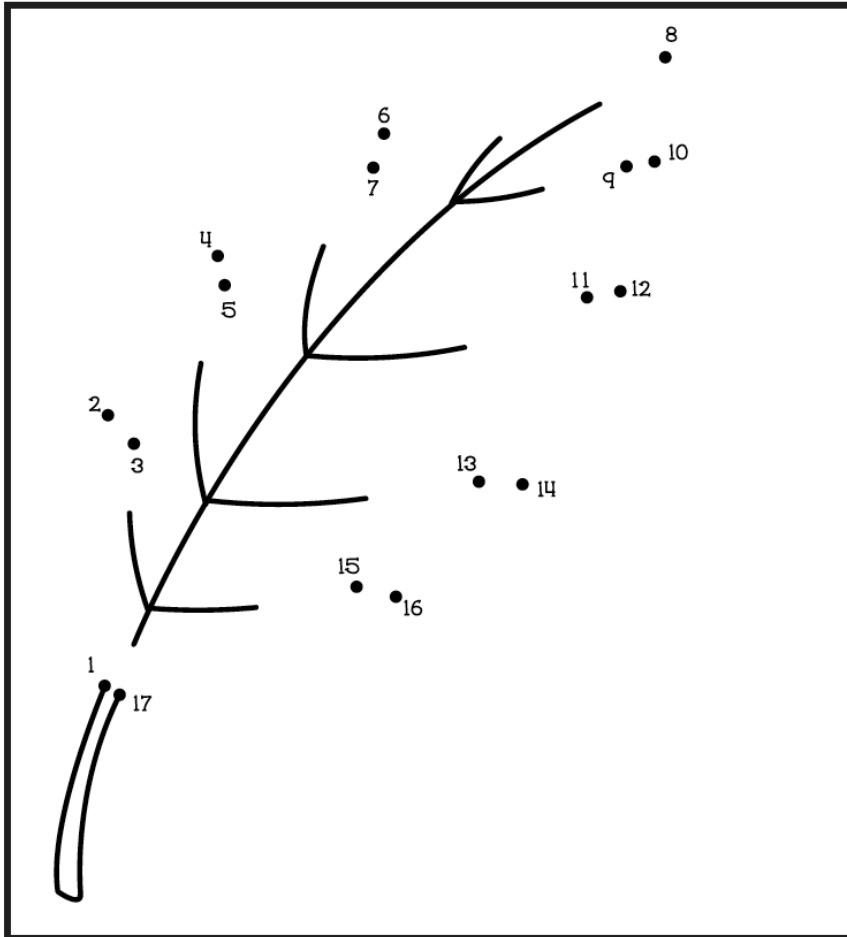
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 118, Luke 19.



CONNECT^{the}DOTS

Connect the dots to form a palm branch. Next to the branch, write or draw some things for which you want to praise God.



illustrated
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Suggested for use on April 14, 2019 based on the RCL.

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TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, March 26

Fresh Start | 8:30 AM | Online

Seekers Book Study Small Group | 9:00 AM | 323 MLK & Online

Lent Bible Study | 9:30 AM | 330 MLK & Online

Beginner Biblical Hebrew I | 9:30 AM | 314 MLK & Online

Church Nursery Open | 10:30 AM

Limitless - Children & Youth Service | 10:30 AM | 9T

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM Prelude begins at 10:30 AM | Nave & Online

Virtual Coffee Hour | After Worship | 318 MLK & Online

Coffee Hour | After Worship | South Hall Lobby

Young Adults Monthly Fellowship Brunch | 12:30 PM | 10T

Theatre of the Oppressed | 1:00 PM | Multipurpose Room

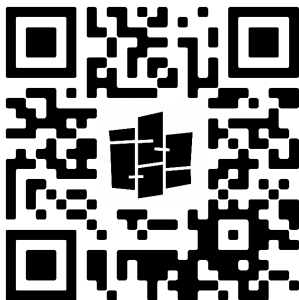
Riverside Poetry Group | 1:00 PM | 323 MLK

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew | 1:00 PM | 314 MLK & Online

Faith in Full Color: Faith Passage Confirmation | 1:00 PM | Youth Room

Holy Land Trip Prep Class | 1:00 PM | 411 MLK

Sunday Afternoon Carillon Recital | 3:00 PM



Visit trcnyc.org/LOC or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

Monday, March 27

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Tai Chi Class | 3:00 PM | Cloister Lounge

Tuesday, March 28

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Wednesday, March 29

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Beginner Biblical Hebrew II | 5:00 PM | Online

Young Adult Bible Study | 6:30 PM | 313 MLK & Online

Grace Notes | 7:00 PM | Online

Thursday, March 30

Morning Prayer 8:00 AM | Online

Tower League | 2:00 PM | Online

Riverside Writing Group: Writing Spiritual Memoir and Justice | 6:30 PM | Online

Friday, March 31

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Family Night Out: Poetry | 6:00 PM | 10T

COMING SOON

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday | 7:30 PM | Nave & Online

Friday, April 7

Good Friday | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Nave & Online

Saturday, April 8

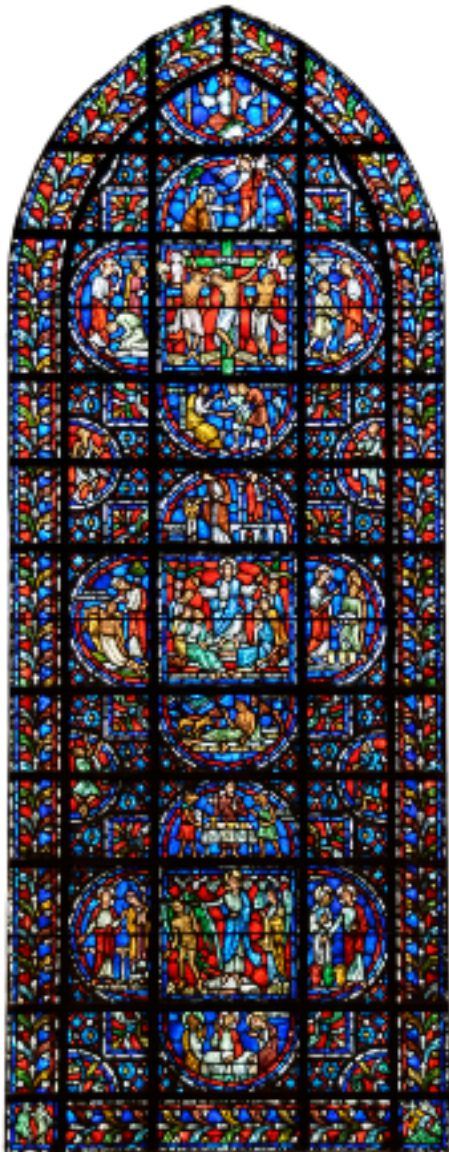
Labyrinth | 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Assembly Hall

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave and Online

Easter Brunch | After Worship | South Hall

Easter Egg Hunt | 12:45 PM | outdoor garth



One of ten aisle stained glass windows, the Christ and Humanity Window is the second from the back of the nave, in Bay 9 on the east side. Each aisle window is a story that depicts a particular theme. This one, in the Gothic Arch form, tells its story through figures and scenes in three quatrefoils vertically down the center and five semi-circle medallions, with one at the top and two on either side.

The Christ and Humanity Window portrays fifteen scenes in which Christ's attitudes toward three types of human need or experience are suggested. Five of these scenes concern his attitude toward the rich, five reflect on his contacts with the poor, and five deal with his disposition to alleviate suffering or forgive sin. The scenes are as follows: Supper at Emmaus; Rich Young Ruler; Wedding in Cana - First Miracle; Parable of the Rich Fool; Temptations of Christ (center quatrefoil); Lazarus at the Rich Man's Door; Parable of the Good Samaritan; Miracle of Loaves and Fishes; Parable of Widow's Mite; The Sermon on the Mount (center quatrefoil); Parable of Laborers in Vineyard; Ten Lepers Healed - Gratitude of One Healing the Blind Man; "Noli me tangere," Christ Forgives the Thief on the Cross (center quatrefoil); and Christ Blessing.

In the corners of the border are the temptations of a woman and St. Michael slaying the dragon. In the four small semi-circles are figures of people seeking healing and liberation from poverty.

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. Adriene Thorne, 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/loc for more information.

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add communications@trcnyc.org to your "safe sender list" or visit trcnyc.org/email to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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 to join us online or go to 318 MLK to join us in person.

MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE

Membership is about you responding to God's call on your life to step up and belong to this community as you pursue the passion God has set in your heart. By joining The Riverside Church you are taking the next step to partner with us as we seek to cultivate a community of justice, peace, and love that transforms the world. Visit trcnyc.org/membership to find out more.

DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit 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 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals for the complete schedule.

CHURCH NURSERY

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM during worship staffed by trained nursery workers. For location please see an usher or security guard.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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