

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



A SERVICE OF COVENANT AND WORSHIP  
CELEBRATING THE PASTORAL INSTALLATION OF

**REV. ADRIENE THORNE**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON



*Cover Art by Jamil De Honney*

*By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.*

*There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!*

Romans 5:1-5 (The Message)

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON PRELUDE

Fanfare for Rev. Adriene Thorne  
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
The Church's One Foundation  
To God be the Glory

Charles Semowich  
arr. Richard Giszczak  
arr. Beverly Buchanan  
arr. Lee Cobb

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

### ORGAN PRELUDE

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654  
There Is A Happy Land  
Choral Varié sur le thème du Veni Creator

Johann Sebastian Bach  
George Shearing  
Maurice Duruflé

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Micah Niang, Eli Riddles, and Ruthie Riddles

We are gathered here this afternoon with siblings in Christ in the tradition of the American Baptist Churches USA, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church, USA, and many others.

We are here to worship God and celebrate the pastoral installation of the Reverend Adriene Thorne as the eighth senior minister of the Riverside Church in the City of New York.

Come, let us worship God!

**INTROIT**    *standing as able, sung by all*

**Come, Let Us Worship God**

Ray Makeever

led by Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer  
with The Riverside Rising Voices

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**    *remain standing, sung by all*

**To God Be the Glory**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

**THE INVOCATION**    *remain standing*

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

**AN EMBODIED PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Minister Derrick Jordan

**All:**    Calling God,  
In the beginning you scoop us up.  
You breathe life into our bones.  
You call us beloved and you fill us with gifts.

Day in and day out we are invited to dance with you,  
to walk with you,  
to use our gifts for good.

And yet too often we forget where we come from.  
We deny that we are beloved.  
We ignore our gifts, or use them for the wrong things. Creator God, forgive us.  
Call us again. And again and again and again.  
Teach us how to fan the flame for what is good.  
Teach us how to have faith like our ancestors.  
Teach us how to listen for our call,  
And when the days are hard,  
And the winter long,  
Guard our good.

In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**GLORIA PATRI**<sup>1</sup>    *standing as able*

Combined Chancel and Inspirational Choirs



<sup>1</sup> From Presbyterian Hymnal Glory to God, #582, arranged by Paul M. Vasile.



## LISTENING

*We listen* for the Word of God through song, scripture, and preaching.

### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Charlene Wingate

### HEBREW BIBLE READING

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 (RSV)

Victoria Anderson

### PSALTER READING

O Magnify the Lord

Chancel Choir

### GOSPEL READING

John 16:1-15 (CEB)

Rev. Jim Keat

### EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:1-5 (MSG)

Jacqueline Gregg

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Jesus Promised

T. W. Carpenter

The Inspirational Choir  
Nedra Olds Neal, *conductor*

### THE SERMON

*It's About Time*

Rev. Barbara J. Essex

### A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION



## RESPONDING

*We respond to the Word of God through prayer, passing the peace, and offering.*

### THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern

### THE PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing, as able*

### THE INSTALLATION OFFERING

Danielle Hartley

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Cello Suite no. 1 in G Major (*select movements*)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Kristina Giles, *viola*

### THE PRESENTATION AND THE DOXOLOGY *standing, as able*

Omega Dance Company

### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION *remain standing*

Rev. Dr. Colleen Birchett





# THE ACTS OF INSTALLATION

## THE STATEMENT OF OCCASION

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley & Rev. Dr. Ruby Wilson

## THE LITANY

Senior Minister Search Committee

*Hylde Clarke:* There are different gifts.

**Congregation:** But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

*Lee Sartain:* There are different ways of serving God.

**Congregation:** But it is the same Lord who is served.

*Annie Meredith:* God works through different people in different ways.

**Congregation:** But it is the same God who achieves God's purpose through them all.

*Karissa Garner:* Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

**Congregation:** To use it for the common good.

*David Vaughn:* Together we are the body of Christ,

**Congregation:** And individually members of that body.

*Lisa Hinds:* Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ.

**Congregation:** We work and pray to make Christ's church useful in the world.

*Mark Yim:* We call people to faith, so that, in the end, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God.

**Congregation:** Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as pastors, ministers, elders, deacons.

*Alexa Donaphin:* We recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said:

**Congregation:** "Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all,

*Beth Wynne-St. Louis:* and if a person wants to be first among you, that person must be the slave of all people."

**All:** Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free.

## THE REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF REV. ADRIENE THORNE

Mr. Clarence Anderson

**THE RESPONSE OF ABCMNY  
AND THE UCC NY ASSOCIATION**

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley & Rev. Dr. Ruby Wilson

**THE VOWS OF THE SENIOR MINISTER-ELECT**

Elder Selma Jackson

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you trust in Jesus Christ your savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's word to you?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Christian faith as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those essential tenets as you lead the people of God?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do, I will, and I ask God to help me.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you promise to fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and leading of the Holy Spirit?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do, and I ask God to help me.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you determine to submit your life and energies to the ministry of the Riverside Church and to the discipline and guidance of The Holy Spirit? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do, I will, and I ask God to help me.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

*Rev. Thorne:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you promise to pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do, and I ask God to help me.

*Elder Selma Jackson:* Do you promise to be a faithful minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the good news in Word and sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*Rev. Thorne:* I do, I will, and I ask God to help me.

**THE VOWS OF THE CONGREGATION** Dr. Emily Anderson & Rev. Dr. Andrea White  
*standing as able*

*One:* Do we, the members of The Riverside Church in the City of New York, accept Rev. Adriene Thorne as our eighth senior minister, chosen by God to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**Congregation:** **We do.**

*One:* Do we promise to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

**Congregation:** **We do.**

*One:* Do we promise to stand by her in trouble and share her joys?

**Congregation:** **We do.**

*One:* Will we listen to her preaching and teaching, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her role in the office of pastor as she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

**Congregation:** **We do, we will, and we ask God to help us.**

**THE VOWS OF ABCMNY  
AND THE UCC NY ASSOCIATION**

Revs. Drs. Dudley and Wilson

*One:* Do we, the members of American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York and the United Church of Christ New York Association, promise, in reliance upon the grace of God, to be a friend in ministry with Rev. Adriene Thorne?

*The Conference/Association:* We do, we will, and we ask God to help us.

*One:* Will we work with her subject to the ordering of God's word and spirit, and will we prayerfully support her in love, challenge, and encouragement to the end that her ministry be fruitful, and the Church be strengthened to the Glory of God?

*The Conference/Association:* We do, we will, and we ask God to help us.

## **THE LAYING ON OF HANDS, THE PRAYER OF INSTALLATION, AND THE ANOINTING**

Rev. Dr. Cathy Gilliard & Rev. Dionne Boissière

Eternal God, we thank You that You call your people for special service. You call some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. Therefore, loving and correcting God, through Jesus Christ, give Your Holy Spirit to Rev. Adriene Thorne. Fill her with grace and power, and make her Your minister, in your Church, that she may boldly proclaim the Gospel and rightly administer the Holy Sacraments of Your New Covenant. Make her a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor that Your name may be ever glorified through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **THE DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION**

Revs. Drs. Dudley and Wilson

Rev. Adriene Thorne, you are now installed as the Senior Minister of The Riverside Church of the City of New York.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Creator through Him. Amen.

## **THE PRESENTATION OF REV. ADRIENE THORNE AS THE EIGHTH SENIOR MINISTER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**

Mr. Clarence Anderson

## **THE PRAYER OF THE SENIOR MINISTER**

Rev. Adriene Thorne

God, though this life is but a wraith,  
Although we know not what we use,  
Although we grope with little faith,  
Give [us] the heart to fight—and lose.

Ever insurgent let [us] be,  
Make [us] more daring than devout;  
From sleek contentment keep [us] free,  
And fill [us] with a buoyant doubt.

Open [our] eyes to visions girt  
With beauty, and with wonder lit—  
But always let [us] see the dirt,  
And all that spawn and die in it.

Open [our] ears to music; let  
[Us] thrill with Spring's first flutes and drums—  
But never let [us] dare forget  
The bitter ballads of the slums.

From compromise and things half done,  
Keep [us] with stern and stubborn pride;  
And when at last the fight is won,  
God, keep [us] still unsatisfied.

### **THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**All:** God of grace, you who call us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with your revolutionary message of love and justice: give us courage and discipline to follow where Your servants rightly lead us; that we may declare Your wonderful deeds and show Your love to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

Walk With Me  
The Inspirational Choir  
Nedra Olds Neal, *conductor*

arr. Leon C. Roberts

### **THE CHARGE TO THE PASTOR**

Rev. Dr. Laurie J. Ferguson

### **THE CHARGE TO THE CHURCH**

Rev. Dr. Eric Thomas

### **THE PASTORAL PRESENTATIONS**

The Robe  
The Stole  
The Bible

Rev. Geraldine Howard  
Rev. Kei Okada and Dahlia Rivadeneyra  
Joy Del Orbe

## DEPARTING

*We depart with God's blessing to serve God in the world.*

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Rev. Adriene Thorne

### CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

### RECESSIONAL *standing, as able*

As You Go, Tell the World

Anonymous  
arr. Valeria A. Foster

Combined Chancel and Inspirational Choirs

### EXHORTATION AND BENEDICTION *Rev. Dr. Ruby Wilson and Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley remain standing*

### THE POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

Paul Manz

Alan Montgomery, *organist*



*Cake and punch reception immediately following worship in South Hall.  
All are welcome!*



## THE INSTALLATION PREACHER

The Reverend Barbara J. Essex



**The Reverend Barbara J. Essex** is a retired minister of the United Church of Christ (UCC). She is an author, teacher, consultant, and retreat and workshop facilitator. As founder of Barbara J. Essex Ministries, she has established strong relationships with a diverse range of congregations, regional and national judicatories, colleges, universities and seminaries. Her work is ecumenical, biblically-based, and theologically and socially progressive.

Rev. Essex's ministry has taken her across the globe and she has served in a variety of settings: local church, campus ministry, denominational, and higher education. Most recently, she was adjunct faculty for the Hartford Seminary Women's Leadership Institute (the seminary is now the Hartford International University for Religion and Peace; Hartford, CT). She continues to teach for Pacific School of Religion's Theological Education for Leadership Program (Berkeley, CA).

The best-selling author received a Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award for Spirituality for her book, *Bad Boys of the Bible: Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue*. Some of her popular works include: *Bad Girls of the Bible: Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue*; *Krazy Kinfolk: Exploring Dysfunctional Families in the Bible*; *Misbehavin' Monarchs: Exploring Biblical Monarchs*; *More Bad Girls of the Bible*; *Bold and Brazen: Exploring Hebrew Prophets*, and *Girlfriends: Exploring Women's Relationships in the Bible*. Her books are making a difference in how we study the Bible and how we view ourselves as children of God. Her articles and essays have appeared in various publications, including biblical commentaries.

Before entering the ministry, Rev. Essex taught English and Reading to high school students in the Chicago Public School System. She has earned degrees from Northwestern University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, both in Evanston, IL.

Rev. Essex is a member of Mt. Zion (Congregational) UCC in Cleveland, and an associate member of Sycamore UCC in El Cerrito, CA.



## THE SENIOR MINISTER

The Reverend Adriene Thorne



*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight paths for you.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6

**The Reverend Adriene Thorne** is the eighth senior minister of the historic Riverside Church in the City of New York and the first African American woman to hold the position. She received her Master of Divinity degree from The Pacific School of Religion and completed post-graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling at The Blanton-Peale Institute.

Rev. Thorne is a healer, Presbyterian minister, and classically trained dancer who uses movement to heal bodies in the church and community. When she is feeling open, though, Rev. Thorne will tell you that she has learned more about God from nature, art, and her child than from any classroom or book.

Rev. Thorne’s background in the performing arts includes credits with The Dance Theatre of Harlem, The Metropolitan Opera, and the world-famous Radio City Rockettes among others. When she is not parenting, pastoring, creating, or mentoring, Rev. Thorne is probably SCUBA diving a coral reef, on the squash court, or in the dance studio, fantasizing about what is newly possible. Rev. Thorne grounds her Christian practice and leadership in an appreciation for imperfection and leads with an understanding that even the resurrected Christ came back in a flawed body – what hopeful news for us!

## THE PARTICIPANTS

The Installation Preacher

The Reverend Barbara Essex  
United Church of Christ

## THE PARTICIPATING GUEST CLERGY

The Reverend Dionne P. Boissière

Chaplain  
Church Center for the United Nations

The Reverend Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley

Regional Executive Minister  
American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York

The Reverend Dr. Laurie J. Ferguson

Executive and Leadership Coach  
Presbyterian Church, USA

The Reverend Dr. Cathy S. Gilliard

Senior Pastor  
Park Avenue United Methodist Church

Elder Selma Jackson

Moderator Elect  
Presbytery of New York City

The Reverend Dr. Eric Thomas

Senior Pastor  
Siloam Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Dr. Ruby Wilson

President of the Board  
United Church of Christ Metropolitan Association  
New York Conference

## THE PARTICIPATING RIVERSIDE CHURCH CLERGY AND MINISTERIAL STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Colleen Birchett

Ministerial Consultant for Curriculum Writing  
and Facilitation

The Reverend Lynn Casteel Harper

Minister for Older Adults

Minister Derrick Jordan

Pastoral Counselor in Residence

The Reverend Jim Keat

Digital Minister

The Reverend Amanda Meisenheimer

Interim Minister for Intergenerational  
Christian Education and Formation

The Reverend Dr. Debra Northern

Minister of Parish Care

The Reverend Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Minister for Justice, Advocacy, and Change

The Reverend Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

Worship Consultant

The Reverend Charlene Wingate

Support Minister for Worship and the Arts

## THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr. Emily Anderson, *co-chair*  
The Reverend Dr. Andrea White, *co-chair*  
Hylida Clarke  
Alexa Donaphin  
Karissa Garner  
Lisa Hinds  
Annie Meredith  
Lee Sartain  
David Vaughn  
Beth Wynne-St. Louis  
Mark Yim

## THE INSTALLATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Emily Anderson  
Karissa Garner  
Jerome Hairston  
Barbara Mellor  
The Reverend Kei Okada  
Carol White

## THE CHOIRS

The Riverside Choir under the direction of Christopher Creaghan  
The Inspirational Choir under the direction of Nedra Olds Neal  
The Rising Voices Choir under the direction of Matthew Hommez

## THE MUSICIANS

Christopher Creaghan, Director of Music  
Alan Montgomery, Associate Organist  
Charles Semowich, Carillonneur  
Kristina Giles, Director, Riverside Community String Ensemble

## THE OMEGA DANCE COMPANY

Maura Burns  
Martha Chapman  
Apollonia Holzer  
Kaoru Ikeda  
Aliyah Miller

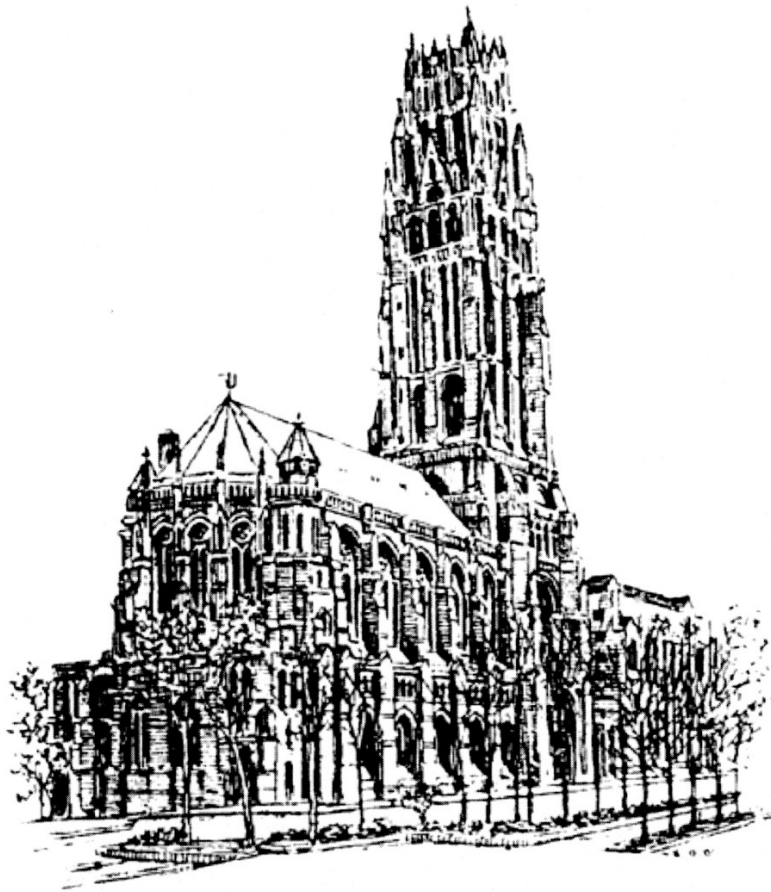
## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH:

Buildings & Grounds  
Communications  
Operations  
Print Shop  
Production  
Security  
Ushers & Greeters  
Madeline's Catering and Richard Yu

## ~ WITH GRATITUDE ~

Rev. Adriene Thorne and The Riverside Church extend heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your encouragement, support, prayers, presence, and participation in today's worship service celebrating this eighth and historic pastoral installation. Your continued prayers for our journeying into God's vision and plan for The Riverside Church are earnestly desired.

*Go in peace to love and serve God.  
Thanks be to God!*



## THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

490 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027 · TELEPHONE 212.870.6700 · TRCNYC.ORG

Rev. Adriene Thorne, Senior Minister

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper, Minister of Older Adults

Rev. Jim Keat, Digital Minister

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer, Interim Minister for Intergenerational Christian Education and Formation

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern, Minister of Parish Care

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner, Minister of Justice, Advocacy and Change

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver, Worship Consultant

Meighan Corbett, Director of Stewardship

Natalie Fein, Chief Operating Officer

Natalie Graves Tucker, Director of Communications and Media

Christopher Creaghan, Director of Music and Organist

Alan Montgomery, Associate Organist

Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

The Riverside Church is a member of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ and cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York and with the New York State, National, and World Council of Churches.