

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 1, 2023 | 11:00 AM

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:

“A wise woman wishes to be no one’s enemy; a wise woman refuses to be anyone’s victim.”

— Maya Angelou

A question for reflection:

How is God challenging you to show up in community differently?

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



Cover Art by Jamil De Honney

World Communion Sunday

Bulletin Annotations by Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

*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

Bread of Angels

César Franck, arr. Leen 't Hart

Communion

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens, arr. Charles Semowich

This is the Hour of Our Banquet

David McKinley Williams, arr. Sally Slade Warner

Communion

William Lloyd Webber, arr. Christiaan Winter

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Four Spiritual Preludes

David Hurd

Oh, What a Beautiful City

Go Down, Moses

Were You There

Deep River

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Adriene Thorne

Why do you
think the **Call to
Worship** is the
beginning of our
worship together?

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *standing as able, said by all*

All: We gather from the west to the east,
From the south to the north,
To celebrate the God of peace
Who accompanies us in our acts of peace.
This God of peace accompanies us
In each and every circumstance around us.
We praise God's name! Amen!

INVOCATION *remain standing*

Look up **Hymn
440** in the red
hymnal in your
pew. Can you
follow along,
tracing the words
with your finger?

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 440 *remain standing, sung by all*

In Christ There Is No East Or West

MCKEE

¹Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Columbia, "Peace & Global Witness Special Offerings." *Presbyterian Special Offerings - 2023 World Communion Sunday*. Presbyterian Church of USA, Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/2023-world-communion-sunday-liturgy/>.

When we **confess**,
we talk about the
ways that we have
not lived in Jesus'
way of love and
justice.

The **Words of
Assurance**
remind us that we
are forgiven. We
are "assured" of
God's grace.

Some people feel
God in nature.
Where do you feel
God most?

After you hear the
scripture reading,
finish these
sentences:

Miriam and her
mother bravely...

God chose Moses
to...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Esta Tierra

Javier Busto

Do not look for me in the wilderness, however high, nor look for me in the sea, however wide it seems. Look for me here, in this low country with bridge and pine grove, with points and slow water, where one can hear it ripple, although the sound fades out.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:26-27a

Emi Hare-Yim

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 334 *standing as able, sung by all*

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

GO DOWN MOSES

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 2:1-10, 3:1-15

Exodus 3:1-15

Vanessa Anderson

Arelis Figueroa, Minister, Lee Sartain, Mark Yim

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Rev. Norton is a guest preacher to our community. As you listen, write down a few words that she says that seem important.

When we listen to important information, like sermons, our minds and spirits need a quiet moment to let it sink in.

There are several Bible characters in this song! Circle each one you find. Are there any you do not recognize or remember?

SERMON

Get in Formation

Rev. Yolanda Norton

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Who'll Be a Witness

Spiritual
arr. Wendell Whalum

Jack Cotterell, tenor

Witness for my Lord, my soul is a witness for my Lord. Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord. You read in the Bible and you understand, Methuselah was the oldest man. He lived nine hundred and sixty-nine. He died and went to heaven, Lord, in due time. Oh Methuselah was a witness for my Lord. You read in the Bible and you understand that Samson was the strongest man. And Samson went out, it was at one time, and he killed about a thousand of the Philistine. Delilah fooled Samson we all know, for the Holy Bible tells us so. She shaved off his head just as clean as your hand and his strength become like a natural man. Oh, Samson was a witness for my Lord. Daniel was a Hebrew child, he went to pray to his God for a while. The king at once for Daniel did send, and he put him right down in the lion's den. God sent His angels the lion's for to keep, and Daniel laid down and he went to sleep, oh Lord. Daniel was a witness for my Lord. Who'll be a witness for my Lord?

What do you notice about the **doxology**? Why do you think we sing it every week?

Listen for the list of places from which our online participants are joining us. How many of those places have you visited?

Whom did you greet today during the **Passing of the Peace**? How did you feel?

What people would you add to this list from your life? Pray for them now.

Can you pray this prayer without looking? What is your favorite line of this prayer today?

THE DOXOLOGY *standing as able, sung by all*

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 *remain standing*

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

Today we celebrate the work of our Communion Ministry, which faithfully prepares and serves Communion for worship on the first Sunday of each month and other special liturgical services throughout the year.

PASSING OF THE PEACE *remain standing*

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the language or version of your heart.

**All: 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

*We join with
Christians all over
the world, praying
this prayer.*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

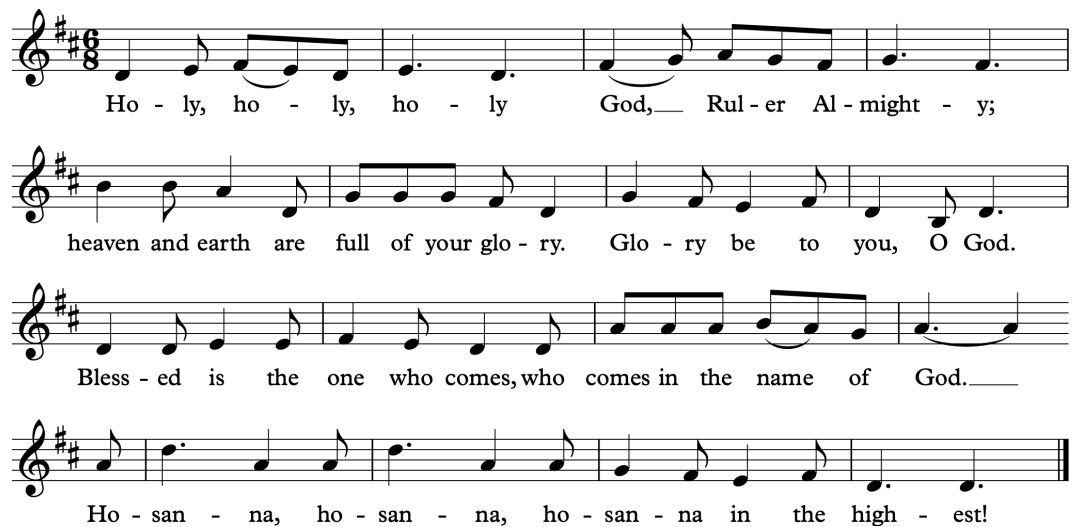
One: Lift up your hearts.

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



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!

*Can you see the
bread and cup
from where you
are sitting? If you
watch carefully,
you will see the
ministers hold
them up!*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Is this the shortest
song we sing?
Maybe. Why do
you think we call
it the "mystery" of
our faith?*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain.

As you are waiting for your turn to receive communion, listen to the musical gifts of our organist and choir. What do you hear? What does it inspire you to think about?

*This is the part of the service where the choir and clergy **recess**. In a worship service, recess is the opposite of process.*

*In a **benediction**, the preacher is speaking a good word over us, blessing us on our way out.*

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!

ORGAN

We Believe All In One God

Syafiqah 'Adha Sallehin

COMMUNION ANTHEM

寂庵の祈り (The Hermit's Prayer)

Chihara Hideki

In happy times, I am grateful. In hard times, give me strength. In lonely times, hear me. Always, always, all people. That happiness and peace may abound always.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

All: Compassionate God, you have met us in the bread and cup at your table. As we go from this place may we receive strength to walk with all your children in peace, and witness to the truth of your reconciliation and love. Amen.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 386 *standing as able, sung by all*
O for a World

AZMON

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Yolanda Norton

*During the
Postlude, we
listen to the gift
of our organist
and we think
about what we
have just heard
and experienced
together. What
part of today's
worship do you
want to remember
later?*

POSTLUDE

Palongo from Five African Dances

Alan Montgomery, organist

Godwin Sadoh



Professor Yolanda M. Norton is the Visiting Professor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and founder/executive director of the Global and Theology Experience, a new nonprofit that provides positive identity formation programming for Black girls and women.

Prior to her current positions, Professor Norton was Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible and H. Eugene Farlough Chair of Black Church Studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary. In addition, she served as Visiting Scholar/Professor at Moravian Theological Seminary from 2021-2023 and 2020-2021 Black Religious Scholars Group Crump Visiting Professor of Black Theology at the Seminary of the Southwest, and adjunct faculty for institutions like Seattle Pacific School of Theology and Lexington Theological Seminary. She teaches courses on the book of Ruth, Beyoncé and the Hebrew Bible, Biblical Archaeology, and Methods of Exegesis.

Her current research interests include narrative and literary criticism, the Persian period, and she is especially committed to womanist biblical interpretation. As such, she focuses on the implications of reading the text alongside Black women, and her work continues to interrogate how various portrayals of women in the Hebrew Bible impact the vilification and/or oppression of women of color who encounter the Bible today.

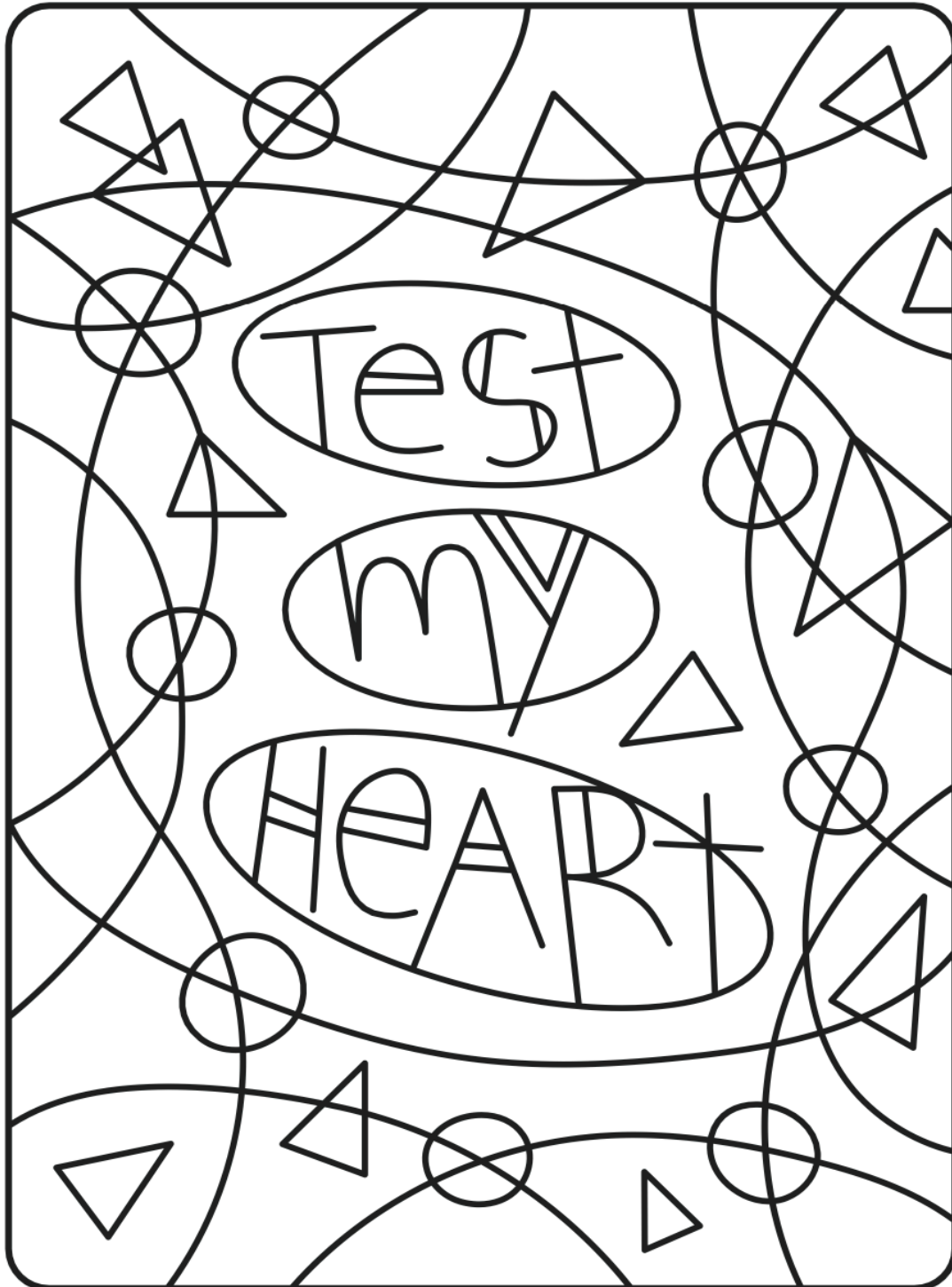
Professor Norton has published chapters in *I Found God in Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader*, *Global Perspectives in the Old Testament*, and Liturgical Press' new feminist commentary on the Psalms (Books 2-3), and has additional articles and chapters pending in a Westminster John Knox publication on God and guns and Liturgical Press's Wisdom of Solomon commentary.

Professor Norton is ordained clergy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and she has deep commitments to the church, having served in various ministerial capacities in the Washington, D.C. area and Nashville, TN. She also preaches and teaches across the country in a range of diverse ecclesial contexts.

Professor Norton has been featured in *Essence*, *Ebony*, *The New York Times*, and a host of other print and media platforms for her creative worship design and innovative preaching, and was named one of America's leading progressive religious leaders by *Patheos*.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28.



TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, October 1

Fresh Start | 8:30 AM | Online

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

Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew | 9:30 AM | 314 MLK & Online

Rising Voices Rehearsal | 9:30 AM | Chapel of the Cross

Cherub Choir Rehearsal | 9:30 AM | 717 MLK

Youth Choir Rehearsal | 10:15 AM | Chapel of the Cross

Church Nursery Open | 10:30 AM | See Usher or Security for Location

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Practicing Sabbath | After Service | South Hall

Coffee Hour | After Service | South Hall Lobby

Virtual Coffee Hour | 12:30 PM | Online

Intermediate-Advanced Biblical Hebrew | 1:30 PM | 314 MLK & Online

Sunday Afternoon Carillon Recital | 3:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

Monday, October 2

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Art of Movement | 10:00 AM | 411 MLK

Tai Chi | 3:00 PM | Cloister Lounge (Child Care Room)

Tuesday, October 3

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Wednesday, October 4

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Older Adults French Group | 10:30 AM | 321 MLK

Advanced Beginners Biblical Hebrew II | 5:00 PM | Online

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

Space for Grace | 7:00 PM | 9T & Online

Thursday, October 5

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Art of Movement | 10:00 AM | 411 MLK

Tower League

Chair Exercise | 1:30 PM | Online

Program | 2:00 PM | Online

Personnel & Salary Committee Meeting | 6:00 PM | Online

Friday, October 6

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Saturday, October 7

The Word in the World | 9:00 AM | Online

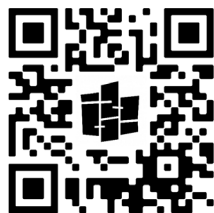
Knitters & Crocheters | 10:00 AM | 7C

Lavish Love: A Conversation with Rev. Adriene Thorne | 1:00 PM | 9T & Online

COMING SOON

Sunday, October 8

Thunderbird Dance Workshop | 1:30 PM | 9T



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.

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

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at trcnyc.org/email. If you're not receiving them, add communications@trcnyc.org to your "Safe Sender list."

MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE

Membership is about 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

These 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 and programs.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this bulletin and your parking ticket to the attendant to receive this discounted rate. This discounted rate applies to Sundays only.

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 and is staffed by trained nursery workers. For location please see an usher or security guard.

PRACTICING SABBATH

Starting the first Sunday in October, there will be no all-church programming on First Sundays with the exception of the Rising Voices Concert in May. Programming before worship will continue on all Sundays unless otherwise noted. We will have lunch available for purchase, as always, but for these First Sundays only, there will be free "light fare" (drinks and snacks) in South Hall for those who join us in Practicing Sabbath.

VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to serving in our Communion and Greeters ministries, providing support in our Food Pantry and Clothing Distribution programs, to making a digital impact through our Digital Ministry, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, establish connections with those who share your passion and purpose, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Every act of service, big or small, brings us closer to creating a stronger, more compassionate world. Join Riverside's volunteer family and let your light shine in all the ways that matter. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

BORROW BAGS

We understand the challenge of keeping children happily occupied during service, and we have a solution right at the entrance of the Nave – our Borrow Bags! These bags are designed to make your worship experience more accessible and enjoyable for both parents and kids. Inside each Borrow Bag, you'll find activities that will captivate and entertain your children while you focus on the service. Ask an Usher for more information.

CONNECT WITH US

Rev. Adriene Thorne

Senior Minister

To reach Rev. Thorne, please contact Kathrin Gabriel-Jones, Executive Assistant at kgabriel-jones@trcnyc.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Minister of Older Adults
lharp@trcnyc.org

Rev. Jim Keat

Digital Minister
jkeat@trcnyc.org

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

Interim Minister for Intergenerational
Christian Education and Formation
ameisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern

Minister of Parish Care
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Minister of Justice, Advocacy and
Change
msjoyner@trcnyc.org

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

Worship Consultant
lmweaver@trcnyc.org

Program and Administration Team

Meighan Corbett

Director of Stewardship & Development
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

Natalie Fein

Chief Operating Officer
nfein@trcnyc.org

Natalie Graves Tucker

Director of Communications and Media
ngtucker@trcnyc.org

Alan Montgomery

Interim Director of Music
amontgomery@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