

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# WELCOME HOME

*SINCE 1930*



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
HOMECOMING SUNDAY

# 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:

“Any conception of God, Baldwin wrote, must deal honestly with the ways Black people are unloved in American society and in the American church and give us all something that helps to work for a world in which all bodies experience what God desires. It must break down the walls. It must bind up our wounds. It must restore our joy. It must set us free and make us better — better at loving God, better at loving ourselves, better at creating love in a loveless world.”

— Danté Stewart

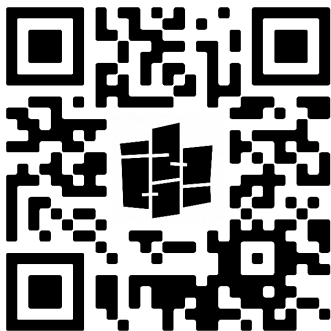
*Shoutin’ in the Fire*, p. 111

## A question for reflection:

What would you hope to see Riverside do to set creation free?

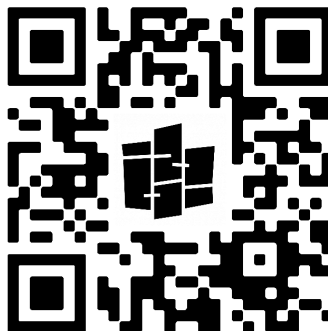
## What’s happening at Riverside?

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

**Notable Speakers Throughout Riverside History** (l. to r.): Desmond Tutu, Cesar Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Marian Wright Edelman, & Martin Luther King, Jr.

*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

Psalm Tune for a Joyful People  
Variations on God of Grace and God of Glory

Joseph Clair Davis  
Charles Semowich

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

### HYMN SING

341	Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine! (vs. 1 & 2)	ASSURANCE
138	Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! (vs. 1, 2, & 4)	NICAEA
377	Tú Has Venido a la Orilla (vs. 1 & 2)	PESCADOR DE HOMBRES
372	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (vs. 1, 2, & 3)	I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
115	Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain (vs. 1 & 2)	ST. KEVIN
398	Sweet, Sweet Spirit (vs. 1)	SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

### CALL TO WORSHIP *standing as able*

*One:* Welcome home on this day that the Lord has made!

***All:* Welcome home on this day of many blessings!**

*One:* This is a day of celebration as we greet one another with the joy of Christ.

***All:* We gather to remember our history and the years of faithful ministry.**

*One:* We gather to celebrate the promise of a hopeful future inspired by the infinite nature of God's love and kindness.

***All:* We gather to prepare ourselves to joyfully serve God in all places and all times in ministries of justice, peace, mercy and love. Come let us worship!**

### INVOCATION *standing as able*

## INTROIT

Gabi, Gabi

Trad. South African melody<sup>1</sup>  
Trans. Nyberg, Notman KB, Ljungsbro, and Parkman

*Praise our Creator, Liberator, and Lord, who frees all the captives and gives the hungry bread.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 442     *standing as able, sung by all* **The Church's One Foundation**

AURELIA

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Charlene Wingate

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

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## ANTHEM

Old Time Religion

arr. Moses Hogan

*Give me that old time religion, it's good enough for me. It was good for the Hebrew children, it's good enough for me. It was good for Paul and Silas, it's good enough for me. It was good for my grandmother, it's good enough for me.*

Kendra Petuch, *soprano*  
Russell Saint John, *baritone*

## LISTENING

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

## GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:27

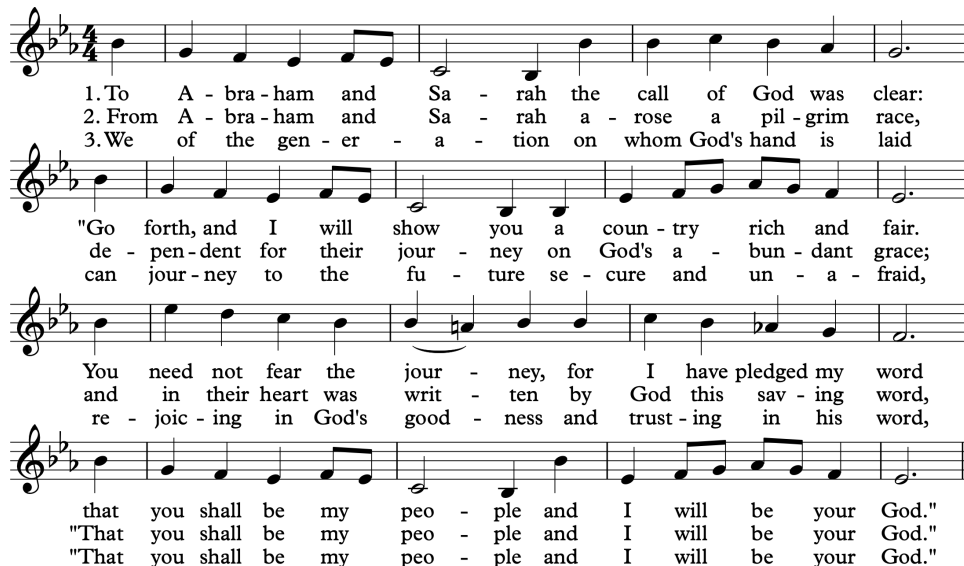
Mark Riddles

**One:**    This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**All:**    **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>*A joyful song of liberation from South Africa, once sung in hope, now in thanksgiving.*

**HYMN** *standing as able, sung by all*  
**To Abraham and Sarah**

NYLAND



1. To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:  
2. From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,  
3. We of the gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid

"Go forth, and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.  
de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;  
can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,

You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word  
and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,  
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in his word,

that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."  
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."  
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

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**HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING**  
**Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7**

Mr. Clarence Anderson,  
Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver,  
Dr. Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome,  
Dr. Muoyo Okome

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

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*At the Opening of the Tent*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

**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. Jim Keat

**We have heard the word of God read and proclaimed. Now let us pray together.**

*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.*

***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

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

*One:* The peace of the Lord be with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### I Was Glad

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

*I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city, that is at unity in itself. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

## AT THE PRESENTATION: 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

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern

*remain standing*

*Today we celebrate every thought, action, and prayer that engages in ministry at the Riverside Church. Together we are the hands of God extending out to the world as the beloved community of Christ.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN 420 *remain standing, sung by all*

### God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

## BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

## POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur Dialogué

Eugène Gigout

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

### Sunday, September 17

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

**Youth Sunday School** | 9:30 AM | 313 MLK Youth Room

**Homecoming** | 11:00 AM | Prelude begins at 10:30 AM | Nave & Online

**Homecoming Lunch** | After Worship | South Hall Lobby

**Virtual Coffee Hour** | 12:30 PM | 318 MLK & Online

**Sunday Afternoon Carillon Recital** | 3:00 PM

**Pastoral Installation of Rev. Adriene Thorne** | 4:00 PM | Nave & Online

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

### Monday, September 18

**Morning Prayer** | 8:00 AM | Online

**Executive Committee Meeting** | 5:30 PM | Online

**Art of Movement** | 10:00 AM | 411 MLK

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

### Tuesday, September 19

**Morning Prayer** | 8:00 AM | Online

**Ordination Committee Meeting** | 6:45 PM | Online

**Building Committee Meeting** | 7:00 PM | Online

### Wednesday, September 20

**Morning Prayer** | 8:00 AM | Online



## **Thursday, September 21**

**Morning Prayer** | 8:00 AM | Online

**Art of Movement** | 10:00 AM | 411 MLK

**Tower League Kick Off**

**Bible Study** | 11:00 AM | 10T

**Luncheon** | 12:00 PM | MLK Rooftop, *weather permitting (alternate: Assembly Hall)*

**Budget & Planning Committee Meeting** | 6:30 PM | Online

**Stewardship Committee Meeting** | 6:30 PM | Online

## **Friday, September 22**

**Morning Prayer** | 8:00 AM | Online

## **COMING SOON**

### **Sunday, September 24**

**Protecting and Expanding Democracy in New York** | 1:30 PM | *Location TBD*

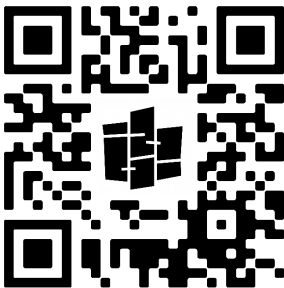
### **Thursday, September 28**

**Riverside Writing Group: “How-To See, Map, Write Health/Poverty/Gender Disparities in Your Own Community: Justice Tales from an Anthropologist”**

6:00 PM | Zoom

### **Friday, September 29**

**Beyoncé Mass** | 7:00 PM | Nave



Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](https://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.

# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on 1 Samuel 1:4-20, Psalm 16, Hebrews 10:11-25.



## **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](http://trcnyc.org/email). If you're not receiving them, add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto: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](http://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](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**

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](http://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.

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## CONNECT WITH US

### **Rev. Adriene Thorne**

Senior Minister

*To reach Rev. Thorne, please contact Kathrin Gabriel-Jones, Executive Assistant at [kgabriel-jones@trcnyc.org](mailto:kgabriel-jones@trcnyc.org)*

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### **Pastoral Staff**

#### **Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper**

Minister of Older Adults  
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#### **Rev. Jim Keat**

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#### **Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer**

Interim Minister for Intergenerational  
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#### **Rev. Dr. Debra Northern**

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#### **Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner**

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#### **Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver**

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#### **Christopher Creaghan**

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#### **Alan Montgomery**

Associate Organist  
[amontgomery@trcnyc.org](mailto:amontgomery@trcnyc.org)

### **CONTACT US:**

To contact the church with general  
questions, call 212-870-6700 or email  
[communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

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

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