

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



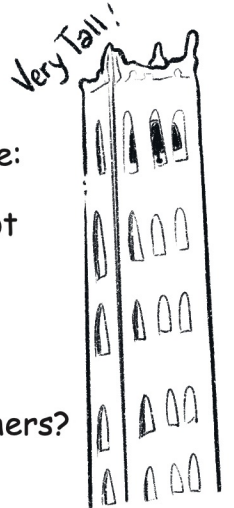
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
APRIL 7, 2024 | 11:00 AM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.
As you prepare your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote:

"We cannot have a healed society, we cannot have change, we cannot have justice, if we do not reclaim and repair the human spirit."
— Rev. angel Kyodo williams



A question for reflection:
How do you share in the healing of the human spirit, your own and others?

Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more



Give By Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Yes, the entire bulletin is in Comic Sans font.
We're doing everything we can to make this Holy Humor Sunday a delight!



or wear a
disguise...

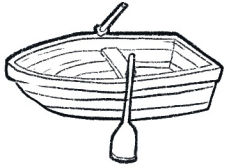
Cover art by Jamil De Honney.
Inspired by Acts 1:1-14.

*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.



"Row, Row, Row Your Boat" is a folk song written by American teacher Eliphalet Oram Lyte and was first published in 1852!

CARILLON

Fantasy on Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Ode to Joy

E. Lyte, arr. Leen 't Hart
Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Gerard de Waardt

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

Beethoven and Bach were once composers. Now they are decomposers.

ORGAN

Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach

Eddie Zheng, *guest organist*



LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

These sheep need some silly hats and clothes. What will you draw for them?

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ standing as able

One: On your feet now - applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into His presence.

All: Know this: God is God. God made us; we didn't make God. We're God's people, God's well-tended sheep.

One: Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

All: Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank God. Worship God.

One: For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.

All: Let us worship God with joy!



INVOCATION remain standing

What makes you feel joyful?

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 464 remain standing, sung by all
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

dancing is also allowed!!

HYMN TO JOY



¹ Psalm 100 from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*. Copyright © 2003 Eugene Peterson.

LISTENING

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

Jesus sends the disciples out to share good news. Listen carefully - what does Jesus tell them to bring along?

Unscramble these synonyms for "Laugh":

1. KHULCCE:

2. WAUGFF

3. GGGLEI

Answers are at the bottom of the page!



GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:7-13

Micah Niang

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN standing as able, sung by all

Give To Us Laughter²

SLANE



1. Give to us laugh - ter, O Source of our life.
2. Give to us laugh - ter as sign of deep joy;
3. E - ven in sor - row and hours of grief,



Laugh - ter can ban - ish so much of our strife!
let us in laugh - ing find Chris - tian em - ploy,
laugh - ter with tears brings us heal - ing re - lief!



Laugh - ter and love give us whole - ness and health.
join - ing with stars and with bright north - ern lights,
God, give us laugh - ter, and God, give us peace,



Laugh - ter and love are the coin of true wealth.
laugh - ing and prais - ing and shar - ing de - lights.
joy of your prom - ise a - mong us in - crease.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Adriene Thorne

ANSWERS: 1. Chuckle
2. Guffaw 3. Giggle

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NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING
Acts 1:1-14

Jack Cotterell, India McLean,
David Vaughn, Julian Wharton

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
I Can Tell the World

arr. Jester Hairston

*I can tell the world. I can tell the world about this. I can tell the nations
I'm blessed; tell them what the Lord has done; tell them that the
comforter has come, and he brought joy to my soul.*

SERMON

The Easter Laugh

Rev. Jane Ann Groom

As you listen to
the sermon, draw
some laughing
faces on these
people. What are
they laughing
about?



Draw a
Smile on
us!

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION



Shhh,
no talking.

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Min. Lee Sartain

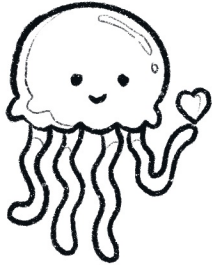
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thanks Be To God from Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn

*Thanks be to God, who laveth the thirsty land! The waters gather, they
rush along; they are lifting their voices! The stormy billows are high;
their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them, and almighty!*

God created many strange and unusual things. What are some silly things that God made?



Who did you greet today during the passing of the peace? Do you know their names?

Sometimes we have needs and troubles, even when we are laughing. What are you praying about 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.

All: 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

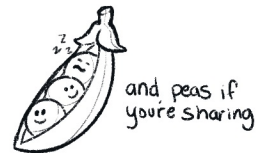
Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Today we celebrate the work of our Executive Committee, which works closely with our Senior Minister to ensure all executive functions are supported.

PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

Following each petition, join in the following response:

One: God, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CHORAL AMEN

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

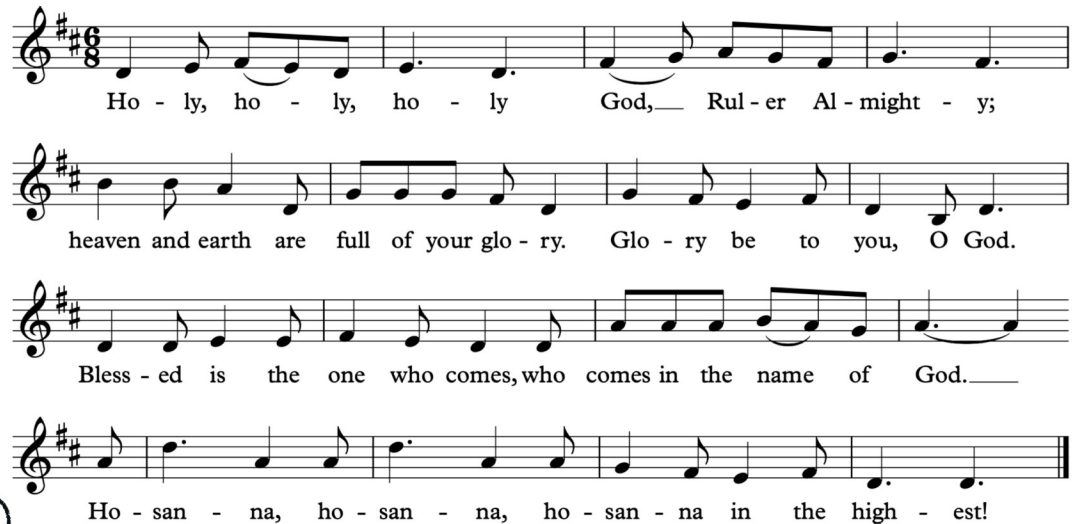
Riverside Pastoral Staff

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

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!

When we take Communion, we are remembering Jesus. What memories of Jesus made the disciples smile or laugh, do you think?



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Musical notation for the Memorial Acclamation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain." The music ends with a double bar line.

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

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!

When a person "improvises," they create something spontaneously or without preparation. *Improvise your own drawing or words below.*



ORGAN

Improvisation

Eddie Zheng

COMMUNION HYMN 508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

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.

Look at this happy song! Circle every happy word you see.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *standing as able, sung by all* Sing A Happy Alleluia³

UNSER HERRSCHER



1. Sing a hap - py al - le - lu - ia, sing it out with heart and style
2. We're the proof of God's good hu - mor, we're the twin - kle in God's eye,
3. Sa - rah laughed at God's good tim - ing, Ma - ry sang and Da - vid danced,
4. Ev - ery day sing al - le - lu - ia! We are loved, though so ab - surd,



we're the e - cho of God's laugh - ter, we're the im - age of God's smile.
made to shine, re - flect the glo - ry, giv - en light and space to fly.
Je - sus smiled and hugged the child - ren so is life for us en - hanced.
hu - man, fool - ish, cho - sen peo - ple, God still takes us at our word!



Al - le - lu - ia, all cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia, ev - ery - one!

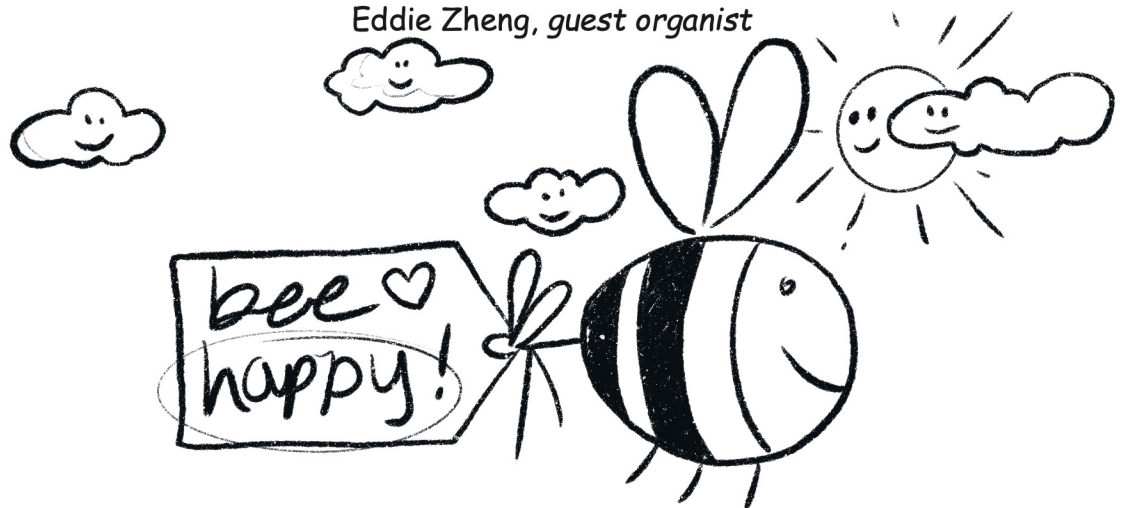
BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Jane Ann Groom

POSTLUDE Sortie in E-flat

Louis Lefébure-Wély

Eddie Zheng, guest organist



³ Words: Shirley Erena Murray, © 1992 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with Permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132



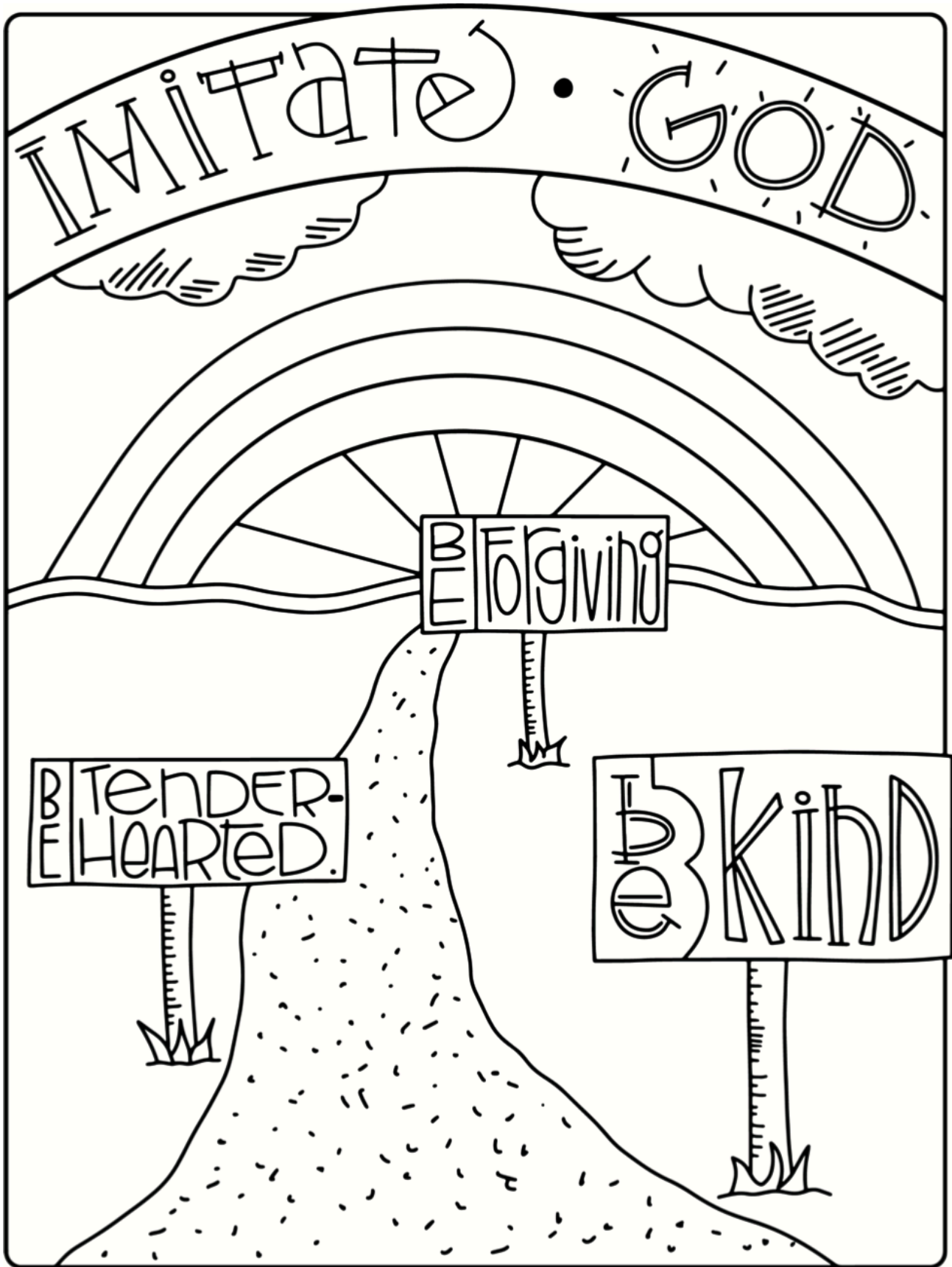
Driven by a passion to bring the beauty and grandeur of organ music to wider audiences, **Eddie Zheng** (guest organist) is a rising concert organist who is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at The Juilliard School, under the guidance of Paul Jacobs. Eddie's performances have been "rapturously received" by diverse audiences around cities across the United States, Canada, France, and China. He has won several prominent competitions, including first place awards at the 2018 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition and the 2019 AGO Quimby Northeast Regional Competition.

In addition to concertizing, Eddie is dedicated to broadening the appreciation of organ music and engaging with audiences of all ages through service playing and teaching. He currently serves as Assistant Organist at Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in New York, where he maintains a thriving teaching studio with organ students of all ages.

Eddie's journey with the organ began at the Juilliard Pre-College division, where he studied with Matthew Lewis before earning his combined BM/MM degree from Juilliard with Paul Jacobs.

Highlights from 2023 include performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and at the Geneva Presbyterian Church Organ Festival in Laguna Woods, California. In July, Eddie traveled to Beijing for a solo recital and a masterclass with China Conservatory of Music organ students, before attending a masterclass with Johann Vexo on the Cavaille-Coll organs of Oloron-Sainte-Marie, France.

In his free time, Eddie indulges his passions for fixing motorcycles, collecting books, and brewing espresso. For more information, please visit eddiezheng.com



Ephesians 4:25-5:2 • illustratedchildrensministry.com

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

First Sunday Food Collection	Narthex & Security	All Day
Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
Breakfast <i>(available for purchase)</i>	South Hall	8:30 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Onsite Open Bible Study	316 MLK	9:30 AM
Virtual Open Bible Study	Online	9:30 AM
Cherub Choir Rehearsal	717 MLK	9:30 AM
Rising Voices Rehearsal	Chapel of the Cross	9:30 AM
Youth Choir Rehearsal	Chapel of the Cross	10:15 AM
Church Nursery Open	See Usher or Security for Location	10:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Lunch <i>(available for purchase)</i>	South Hall	After Service
MLK Exhibit Commemoration	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Practicing Sabbath	South Hall	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	12:30 PM
Intermediate-Advanced Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	1:30 PM
Sunday Afternoon Carillon Recital: Outer Space Music		3:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tai Chi	13T	3:00 PM
MCPL Commission Meeting	Online	6:00 PM
MSJ Commission Meeting	Online	6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting	Online	6:30 PM
Education Commission Meeting	Online	7:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Nominating Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM
Advanced Beginners Biblical Hebrew II	Online	5:00 PM
Space for Grace	9T & Online	7:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	10T	11:00 AM
Tower League Luncheon	Assembly Hall	12:00 PM
The Bible's Role in Settler Colonialism: A Focus on Palestine and Beyond	Nave & Online	7:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Word @ Night	9T	6:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Riverside Book Club	Online	11:00 AM
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COMING SOON

Justice in a Multifaith Society with Dr. Shirin Shifaie & Rev. Dr. Peter Choi	Sunday, April 14	1:30 PM
45th Annual English Handbell Festival	Sunday, April 14	4:00 PM
Carla DeSola Body Prayer	Tuesday, April 16	6:00 PM
Women of the Bible	Sunday, April 21	1:30 PM
55th Anniversary of Black Manifesto: A Call to Reparations with Jennifer Jones Austin	Saturday, April 27	10:00 AM
Theatre of the Oppressed: Somatic Abolitionism Training	Saturday, April 27	1:30 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.

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 A. Forbes, Jr., 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 on the upper level to receive this discounted rate, pay, and pick up your car. 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.

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. Join Riverside's volunteer family, and let your light shine in all the ways that matter. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

PRACTICING SABBATH

On first Sundays after worship, we Practice Sabbath as a community. 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 in South Hall, as always.

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 the 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

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Senior Minister

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

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For full staff directory visit
trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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