

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



HOMECOMING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | 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:

“Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph.”

— Haile Selassie

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice,
but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

— Elie Wiesel

A question for reflection:

As a child of God, what helps you to act in the face of injustice?

Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more



Give By Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



ASL Interpreters

Avery Gordon and M. Lisa Lockley

Cover art by Jamil De Honney.

Inspired by Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14.

Assisted listening devices are available to anyone who needs them. Speak to an usher to secure one for service. They can be returned to any usher at the end of service.

*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 to prepare our hearts to worship God.

CARILLON

This extended carillon prelude commemorates the centennial of The Riverside Church carillon.

Intrada Col Aria	John Courter
Centennial Chimes	Joey Brink
Theme with Variations	Johanna Bordewijk-Roepman
Aeolian Mode	John Courter
Lydian Mode	John Courter
Alleluia	Alice Gomez

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*
Joseph Min, Anne Lu, Courtney Greifenberger, *guest carillonneurs*

ORGAN

Allegro vivace from *Organ Symphony* No. 5, Op. 42, No. 1 Charles-Marie Widor

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

INTROIT

Tu Es Petrus Maurice Duruflé

You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.

CALL TO WORSHIP *standing as able*

Sara Pascarelli

One: Welcome. Welcome. Welcome! Welcome home to this sacred space!

***All:* We come home to the table of grace, where all find a place.**

One: Our hearts remember the love that carried us through each season.

***All:* Our spirits rejoice in the mercy of Christ, our beloved shining light.**

One: With gratitude for the past and courage for the days to come,

***All:* We worship Christ with gladness, for we are truly coming home. Let us worship!**

INVOCATION *remain standing*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 420 *remain standing, sung by all*
God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GLORIA PATRI

1. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

ANTHEM

O, Clap Your Hands

Ralph Vaughn Williams

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the Lord most high is terrible; He is a great King over all the earth. God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing ye praises everyone that hath understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Len Leach

John 1:29 (*Pew Bible p. 92*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14 (*Pew Bible p. 16*)

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

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

Alexa Donaphin, Len Leach

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Jim Keat

HYMN 379 *standing as able, sung by all*

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

SERMON

Planting Small Seeds

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

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

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

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

***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

PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

You Must Have That True Religion

Roland M. Carter

*Oh, you must have that true religion, you must have your soul converted,
You must have that true religion or you can't cross there.*

*Where have you been poor sinners? Where have you been, I say?
I've been way down to the river of Jordan.
No, you can't cross there.*

*Where have you been poor mourner? Where have you been, I say?
I've been way down to the river of Jordan.
No, you can't cross there.*

*Where have you been, good Christian? Where have you been so long?
I've been way down in the valley for to pray, and I ain't done praying yet.*

*Oh, give me that ol' time religion. It's good enough for me.
Oh, yes, you must have that true religion, you must have your soul converted,
You must have that true religion or you can't cross there.*

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.

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 AND DEDICATION *remain standing*

Rev. Tim Dalton

*Today we celebrate every act of ministry undertaken by The Riverside Church this year, and we
express our deep gratitude for the prayers and support that have sustained us. United, we are
the hands of God reaching out to the world as the beloved community of Christ.*

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 443 *remain standing, sung by all*
O Christ, the Great Foundation

AURELIA

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE
Final from *Organ Sonata No. 1*, Op. 42

Alexandre Guilmant

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Breakfast <i>(available for purchase)</i>	South Hall	8:30 AM
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Homecoming Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Homecoming Lunch	South Hall	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	After Service
African Fellowship Ministry Meeting	311 MLK	1:30 PM
Carillon Recital		1:30 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Multifaith Monday Vigil	Columbus Circle	5:30 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	Online	5:30 PM
The Gathering: Rooted & Rising featuring Broadway Inspirational Voices	Nave & Online	7:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Building Committee Meeting	Online	7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Interfaith Welcome Service & Dinner	Interchurch Center (61 Claremont Ave.)	6:00 PM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Budget & Planning Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM
Stewardship Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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COMING SOON

Festival of Lay Ministries	Sunday, September 21	After Service
Dinner Church: Stories from the Freedom Ride	Wednesday, September 24	5:00 PM
One Book. One Riverside.	Saturday, September 27	4:00 PM
Everybody's Night	Saturday, September 27	6:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study: Bible in a Minute	Wednesday, October 1	12:30 PM
Short Circles: A Theology of Bluey	Thursday, October 2	7:00 PM
Word @ Night	Friday, October 3	6:30 PM
Blessing of the Animals	Sunday, October 5	9:00 AM



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



ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES & ASL INTERPRETATION

Assisted listening devices are available for those who need them, and ASL interpretation is provided on select Sundays. Please see an usher to request a device or to find the best seating for viewing the interpreters.

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.

GRACE SPACE NURSERY

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The grace space 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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS

Recitals take place most weeks at 1:30 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals for the complete schedule and programs.

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.

VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to providing support in our social services programs, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

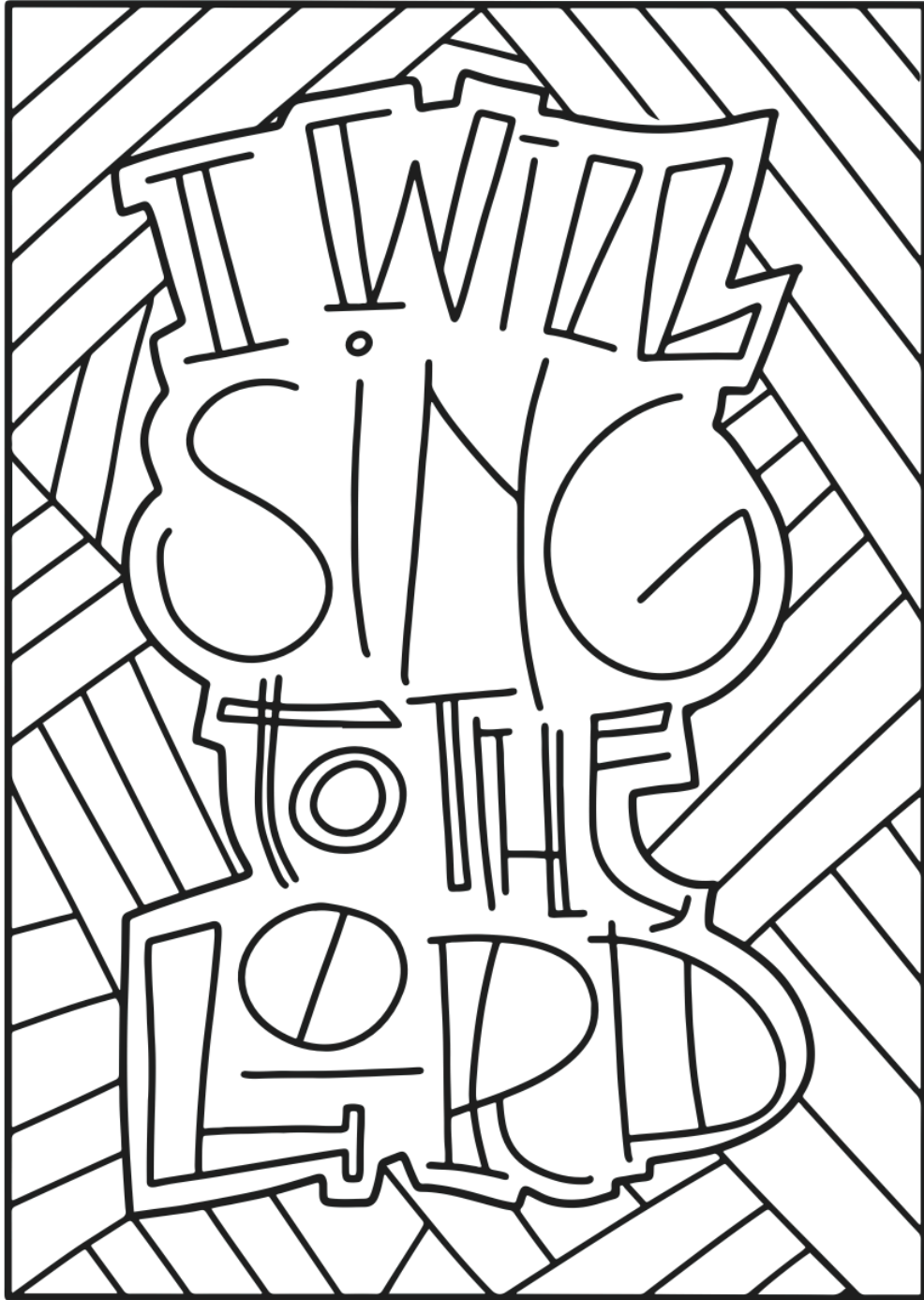
Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at trcnyc.org/email. Be sure to add communications@trcnyc.org to your "Safe Sender list."

DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit trcnyc.org/app to stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13, Matthew 10:40-42, Romans 6:12-23.





PASTORAL TEAM & MINISTERIAL STAFF



Rev. Adriene Thorne
Senior Minister



Rev. Tim Dalton
*Minister for
Congregational Care
and Older Adults*



Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler
*Minister for
Intergenerational Christian
Education and Formation*



Rev. Derrick T. Jordan
Ministerial Staff



Rev. Jim Keat
*Minister of Digital
Worship and Education*



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



Rev. Charlene A. Wingate
Ministerial Staff



Rev. Jabe Ziino
*Associate Director of
Education and Faith
Formation (Youth and
Young Adults)*

If you or someone you know is experiencing a pastoral emergency, please call 212.870.6710 and ask for the clergy on call.

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

Natalie Fein
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs
Director of Music

Talia Johnson
Manager of Member Services

Alexandra A. Pimentel
Director of Social Services & Outreach

Natalie Graves Tucker
Director of Communications and Development

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