THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 28, 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:

"God is not a fixed being enclosed in heaven. God is the ever-flowing source of life, present in every cry for justice and every act of love."

— Ivone Gebara (Brazilian, feminist, liberation theologian)

A question for reflection:

What is a name or image for God that has been meaningful to you?

Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more

Give By Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035





ASL Interpreters

Terrona Evans and Sheldon Price

Cover art by Jamil De Honney.

Inspired by Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17.

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

Frolic Milonga Kyrie

Frank Della Penna Ronald Barnes Alice Gomez

Lynnli Wang, carillonneur

ORGAN

Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543

J.S. Bach

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

INTROIT

God Be in My Head

John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in mine heart and in my thinking. God be at my end and in my departing.

CALL TO WORSHIP standing as able Micah Niang

Give thanks to our Creator of all, and tell of wonders untold, All: God's love endures forever, faithful, mighty, and bold. One: God sees our hearts, our hopes, and every one of our fears.

All: God calls us to have courage, drawing us near. From desert and danger, God guides us each day, One:

All: Let us worship the God who lights our path and shows us the way.

INVOCATION remain standing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 488

The God of Abraham Praise

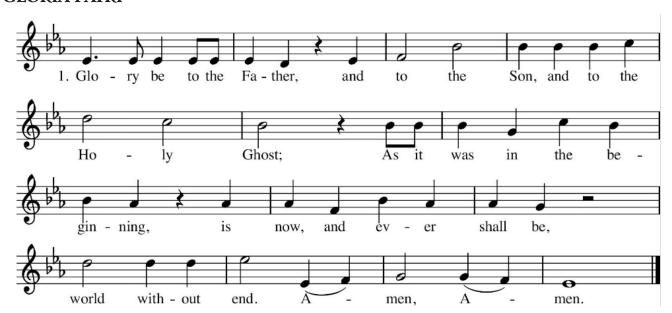
remain standing, sung by all

LEONI

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GLORIA PATRI



LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:58 (Pew Bible p. 102)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Dr. Muoyo Okome

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul.
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I Am";
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17 (Pew Bible p. 50)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

Prof. Mojúbàolú Olufúnké, Dr. Muovo Okome

HYMN

Spirit I Have Heard You Calling



Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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. Tim Dalton

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

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

Thanks Be to God from Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn

Thanks be to God. He 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!

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; All: Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Rev. Adriene Thorne PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION remain standing

Today we celebrate the work of Riverside's ushers, who have faithfully extended hospitality to all who enter The Riverside Church. May their example inspire us all to embody the spirit of welcome and generosity in our own lives.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 330 remain standing, sung by all

Deep in the Shadows of the Past SHEPHERDS' PIPES

BENEDICTION remain standing Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

POSTLUDE

Hymn Improvisation

Stephen Tharp, organist

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Breakfast (available for purchase)	South Hall	8:30 AM
Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
Adult Confirmation Class	320 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
ParentConnect	321 MLK & Online	10:00 AM
Cherub Choir	721 MLK	10:00 AM
Rising Voices & Youth Choir	311 MLK	10:00 AM
Grace Space Nursery	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	After Service
Lunch (available for purchase)	South Hall	After Service
Ecclesia Ministry	Assembly Hall Kitchen	12:50 PM
Adjourned Annual Congregational Meeting	South Hall	1:00 PM
Carillon Recital		1:30 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY CEDTEMBED 20

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29		
Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	Online	11:00 AM
Multifaith Monday Vigil	Columbus Circle	5:30 PM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30		
Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Social Services Committee Meeting	5T Conference Room	1:00 PM

Online

6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Anti-Racism Taskforce Ministry Meeting

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM
Midweek Bible Study: Bible in a Minute	Online	12:30 PM
Lofi Study Lounge	8T	2:00 PM
Dinner Church	9T Library	5:30 PM
Intermediate Beginners Biblical Hebrew	Online	5:30 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League	Online	1:30 PM
Personnel & Salary Committee Meeting	Online	6:00 PM
Short Circles: A Theology of Bluey	Online	7:00 PM
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3 Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Word @ Night	10T	6:30 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4		
Beloved Earth Community	Online	1:00 PM

COMING SOON

Blessing of the Animals	Sunday, October 5	9:00 AM	
World Communion Sunday*	Sunday, October 5	11:00 AM	
*All are invited to wear clothes from their cultural tradition to next week's worship service.			
Space for Grace	Wednesday, October 8	7:00 PM	
Metro IAF NY Mayoral Candidate Accountability Assembly	Sunday, October 19	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

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

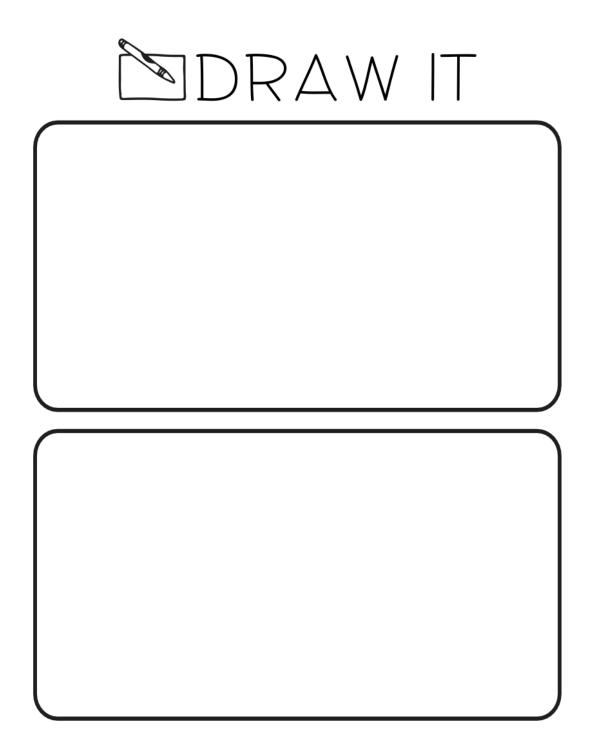
Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to providing support in our social services programs, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

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.



Exodus 3 tells the amazing story of God appearing to Moses in the burning bush. In the first box, draw what you imagine this scene looked like. In the second box, draw a picture of a time God appeared to you somehow or you felt God's presence in a strong way.



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 KeatMinister 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

Paul Byssainthe, Jr.
Associate Organist

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

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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