

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



CHILDREN'S SABBATH
OCTOBER 19, 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:

“The biggest issue we face is shifting human consciousness, not saving the planet.

The planet does not need saving, we do.”

— Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, also known as X,
environmental youth activist and hip-hop artist

A question for reflection:

What can you do to make the church and our world inviting for children and youth?

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 Alejandra Argueta.

Inspired by 1 Samuel 16:1–13 and Psalm 51:10–14.

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

O Waly, Waly
Be Thou My Vision (Slane)
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Traditional English Melody, arr. Alice Gomez
Irish Ballad Melody, arr. Wendell Wescott
Anonymous American, arr. Milford Myhre

Carla Staffaroni, *carillonneur*

HANDBELLS

The Lord's Prayer
Allegro con moto

Albert Hay Malotte, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Jason Krug

The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, *director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

INTROIT

Create In Me, O God, A Pure Heart

Johannes Brahms

*Create in me, O God, a pure heart,
and grant a new, grant a right spirit within me.*

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *standing as able*

Cuba McLean

One: Come to worship like children

***All:* Children who are blessed and loved under God's name.**

One: What do children seek for life?

***All:* They seek fun, friendship, love, kindness, and justice.**

One: Come to worship like children.

***All:* Who are full of joy, curiosity, and intelligence.**

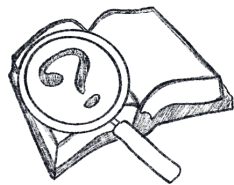
INVOCATION *remain standing*



*Put a balloon for
the joyful parts
of worship. Put
a thought bubble
where it feels
meditative.*



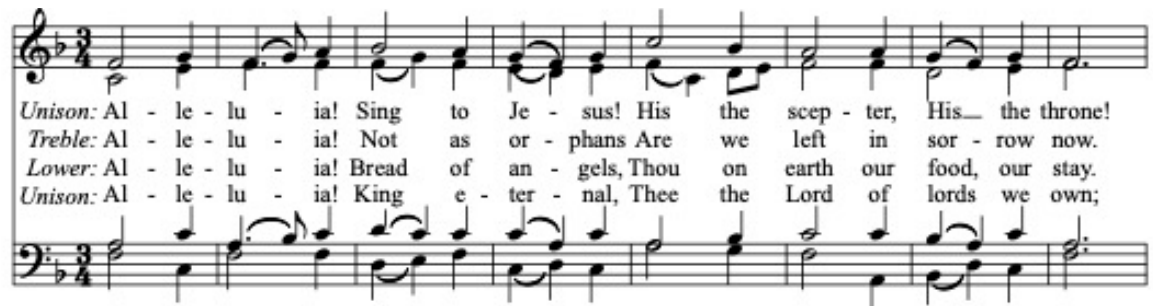
*What are you
seeking from
church today?*



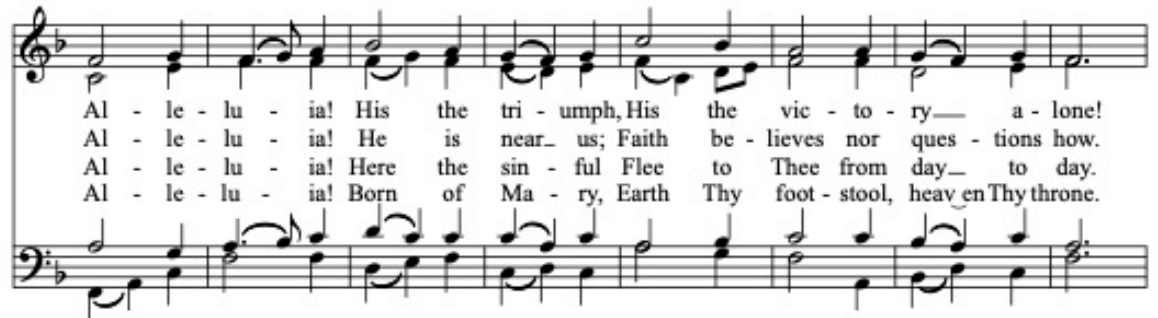
¹ Written by the 7th-12th grade church school youth group.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *remain standing, sung by all*
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

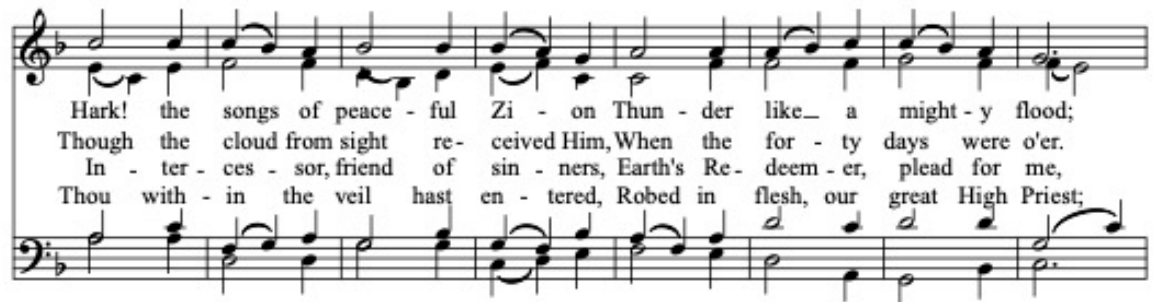
HYFRYDOL



Unison: Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, His the throne!
Treble: Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in sor - row now.
Lower: Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Thou on earth our food, our stay.
Unison: Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Thee the Lord of lords we own;



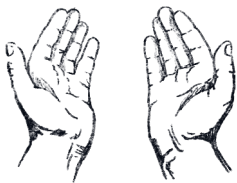
Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry — a - lone!
Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us; Faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how.
Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful Flee to Thee from day — to day.
Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry, Earth Thy foot - stool, heav en Thy throne.



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood;
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him, When the for - ty days were o'er.
In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,
Thou with - in the veil hast en - tered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;



Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion Hath re - deemed us by His blood.
Shall our hearts for - get His prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
Where the songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
Thou on earth both Priest and Vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.



*What are you
holding today
that you would
like God's help
or the help of
the community
to hold?*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION


Church School Children and Youth

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Micah Niang

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

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

*The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;*

*The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one;*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

*He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

LISTENING

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

*What is something
God has put
inside of you that
you wish others
could see?*

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Abraham Huang

John 7:24 (*Pew Bible* p. 99)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Draw David and
his 7 siblings in
a line.*

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Dahlia Rivadeyra and Nadia King

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (*Pew Bible* p. 259)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

*What ages were
the youngest and
the oldest listener
in the Message for
All Ages?*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler and Church School Students

ANTHEMS

Jesus Loves Me

Anna Warner

arr. Sharon Prichard and Heather Imperiale



*Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Playful curious and bright
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

*Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.*

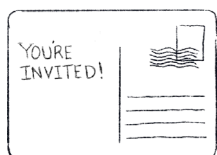
*I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.*

The Cherub Choir
Sharon Prichard, *director*

I've got this joy down in my heart, yes, down in my heart today. Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around. No one can quench this joy that I have found. This joy that I have can't be taken away. I believe in myself and I know that this joy is in my heart to stay. I've got this joy down in my heart, yes, down in my heart today. I've got joy!

*The Rising Voices Choir
Matthew Hommez, director
Yuliya Basis, accompanist*

What is the best invitation you have ever received?



Write or draw a prayer for someone you care about.



Try giving people a wink when you pass the peace. Did they notice or wink back? ;)

SERMON

Invite

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler with Sonaya Toran

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. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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* Rev. Jabe Ziino, Elias and Ezekiel Huang

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Who'll be a Witness

Arr. Wendell Whalum

*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.
He'll be a witness for my Lord,
Oh he'll be a witness for my Lord.*

*Delilah fooled Samson we all know,
For the Holy Bible tells us so.
She shaved off his head
just as clean and your hand,
And his strength become like a natural man.
Oh, Samon was a witness for my Lord.*

*You read in the Bible and you understand,
Methuselah was the oldest man.
He lived nine hundred and a sixty nine.
He died and went to heaven, Lord, in due time.
Methuselah 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.*

*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.*

*God sent His angels the lion's for to keep,
And Daniel laid down and he went to sleep.
Daniel was a witness fo my Lord,
Oh, Daniel was a witness for my Lord.*

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 the work of our Children and Families Ministries, which provides
a worshipful space for children and families to engage the stories of our faith through
the lens of love and justice.*


*What are you
most thankful for
this week? Write or
draw your answer.*

SENDING

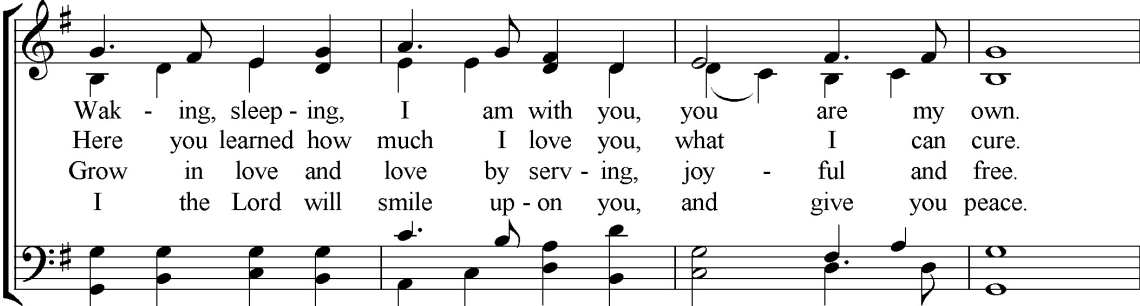
We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *remain standing, sung by all*
Go, My Children, with my Blessing


AR HYD Y NOS



1. "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2. "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3. "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
4. "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler and Sonaya Toran

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F, BWV 540

J. S. Bach

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

MEET OUR NEW CLERGY

Min. Jillian Langford

Minister for Education: Children and Families



Jillian Langford, MTS, was most recently the Minister for Care and Congregational Life at Middle Collegiate Church. She earned her Master of Theological Studies from Villanova University in 2020 and is just weeks away from finishing her PhD in theological pedagogy. Her dissertation includes a sixteen-week curriculum designed to help young people imagine new ways of thinking about God and to grow in healthy, holistic ways. At the heart of her work is a passion for youth liberation — creating spaces where young people are empowered as full participants in spiritual and communal life.

Jillian is also a Fellow with the Fred Rogers Institute's Educators' Neighborhood Collective, where she explores the power of imagination, media, and relationships in education. Before her work at Middle, she was Director of Operations and Programs at the Center for Christogenesis, where she launched the Christophany Group initiative to bring people from around the globe together for spiritual community during the height of the pandemic.

She lives in Manhattan where she enjoys writing theology, reading novels in her neighborhood park, and cooking long-form meals. She is always looking for creative, intergenerational, and multicultural ways to learn and grow with her community.

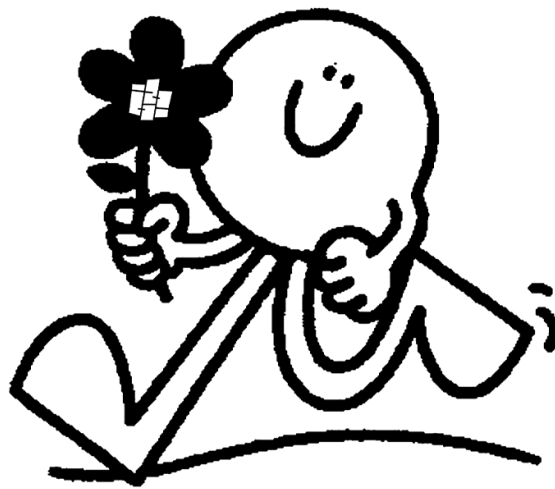
You're Invited!

Who: _____
(fill in the blank with someone who has been excluded)

Why: _____
(fill in the blank about why their presence matters)

What: _____
(fill in the blank with what will be offered to them)

When: _____
(fill in the blank on one plan you will make to prepare for their welcome)



TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Breakfast <i>(available for purchase)</i>	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
Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	9:30 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 <i>(available for purchase)</i>	South Hall	After Service
Children's Sabbath Intergenerational Art Event	Assembly Hall	12:45 PM
Metro IAF NY Mayoral Candidate Accountability Assembly	Bus Departs from 91 Claremont Ave.	12:45 PM
Advanced Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	1:00 PM
B&P's Cyber Security and Device Support	20T	1:00 PM
Social Services Committee Meeting	5T Conference Room	1:15 PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Men's Class Ministry Meeting	MPR	1:30 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Morning Bible Study	Online	11:00 AM
Executive Committee Meeting	Online	5:30 PM
Multifaith Monday Vigil	Columbus Circle	5:30 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
NYC Votes Presentation	Food Pantry / Cloister Lobby	10:00 AM
Building Committee Meeting	Online	7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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	5:30 PM
Intermediate Beginners Biblical Hebrew	Online	5:30 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	330 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	Christ Chapel	11:00 AM
Tower League Luncheon	Assembly Hall	12:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The People's Agenda Summit	South Hall	10:00 AM
Theatre of the Oppressed	13T	1:00 PM

COMING SOON

B's & P's Bake Sale	Sunday, October 26	After Service
Sunday Dancing	Sunday, October 26	1:30 PM
HarvestFest	Friday, October 31	3:00 PM
The Riverside Choir: Michael Trotta's Requiem Mass	Sunday, November 2	3:00 PM
Space for Grace	Wednesday, November 5	7:00 PM
Turkey Trot 5K & Youth Turkey Dash	Saturday, November 8	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.

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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS

Recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 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

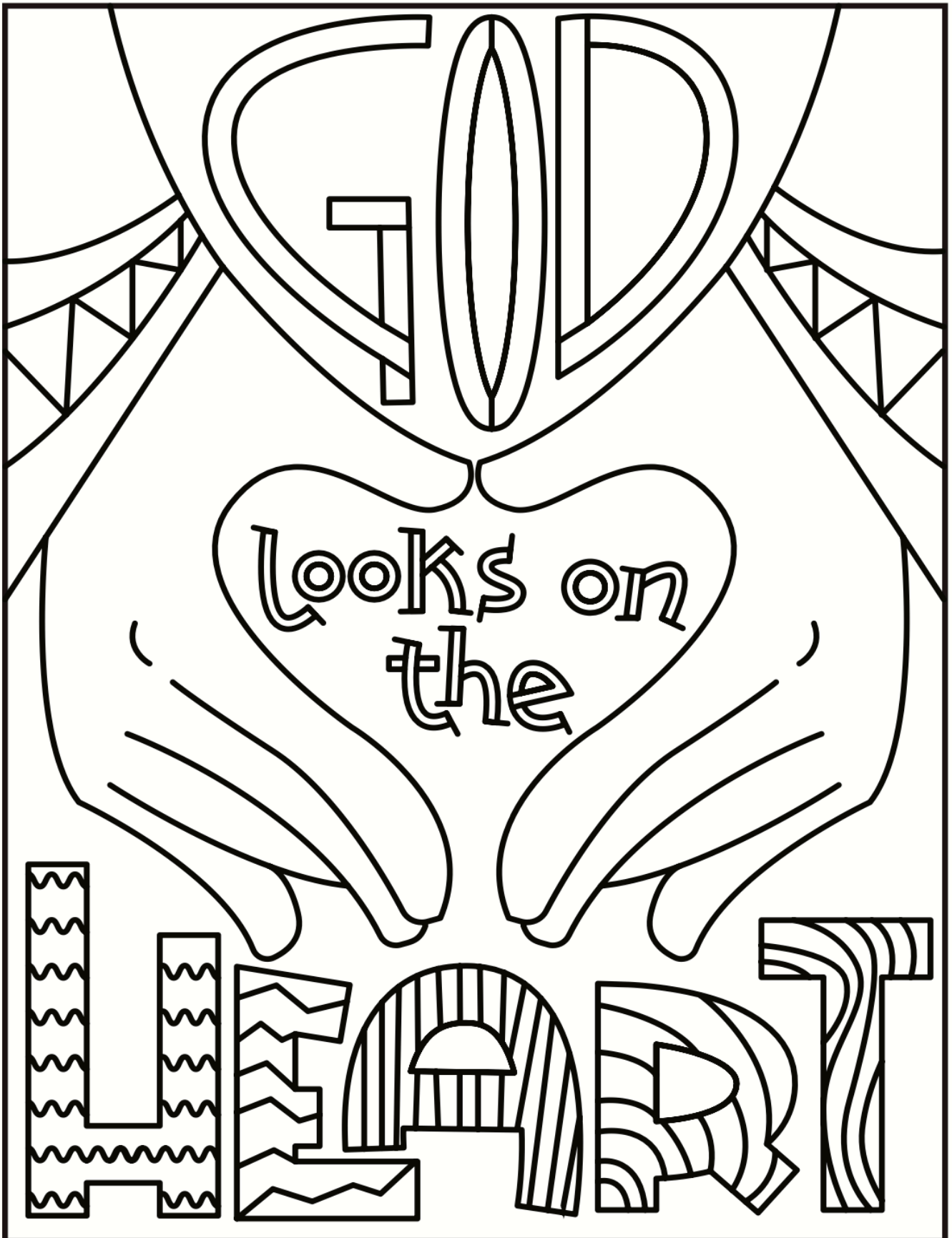
Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to providing support in our social services programs, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

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.





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*



**Min. Jillian
Langford**
*Minister for Education:
Children and Families*



**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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