

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



LOVE
MADE PUBLIC

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 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:

“It takes an imagination to see Jesus right there. Hope is a discipline, and seeing Jesus in the midst of this is a discipline.”

-Sophie Callahan

(Justice-driven educator and faith leader living and serving in Minneapolis)

“Love has the power to make a dead heart beat again.”

-Wrushank Sorte

A question for reflection:

Where in your life does Jesus seem to be calling you toward life?

Connect With Us

Visit our [Welcome Page](#) to learn more



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



ASL Interpreters

Canara Price and Avery Gordon

Cover art by Jamil De Honney

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 and prepare our hearts to worship God.

CARILLON

Chorale Partita I (*Ach, wie flüchtig, ach, wie nichtig*)
Variations on “God of Grace, God of Glory

John Knox
Charles Semowich

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Even Song
Nave

John La Montaine
Robert Hebble

Stephen Tharp, *Organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Jabe Ziino

INTROIT

We Shall Walk Through the Valley

Undine Smith-Moore

*We shall walk through the valley in peace;
we shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*If Jesus, Himself shall lead us,
we shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*There will be no trials there;
there will be no trials there.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able

India McLean

One: All creation waits on the Lord, the giver of breath and life.

***All:* We wait with open and willing hearts.**

One: When God opens a hand, we are filled, and life begins again.

***All:* We receive with gratitude and humility.**

One: God sends the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

***All:* Let us worship, O God, and be renewed in Your presence.**

INVOCATION

standing as able

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

remain standing

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Keat

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right - eous-ness;

5
make thy way plain be - fore my face.

LISTENING

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

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

India McLean

Psalm 104:27-30, (*Pew Bible page 555*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Susan Whiteford

John 11:1-44, (*Pew Bible page 104*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEMS

We are Strong

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

*We are strong in the time of injustice,
We are strong in the time when the world isn't right,
We are strong in the time of injustice,
We march on and on and on.*

*We are kind in the time of injustice,
We show love in the time of injustice,
We help others,
We persevere,
We are brave,
We make things right,
We have faith,
We march on and on and on,
We love on and on and on.*

The Cherub Choir
Sharon Prichard, *director*

*God was there with me on the day I was born, God walks with me.
 Just a little baby cradled safe and warm, God walks with me.
 God walks with me, everyday for the rest of my life.
 God will be with me when the sun shines bright, God walks with me.
 God will be with me in the darkest night, God walks with me.
 God will be with me when I'm old and gray. I'm gonna praise God everyday!*

The Riverside Rising Voices Choir
 Matthew Hommez, *Director*
 Yuliya Basis, *Pianist*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Leah Fowler

HYMN

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new, that I may
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure, un - til with
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so I shall ne - ver die, but live with

love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 thee I will thy will, to do and to en - dure.
 thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what Thou dost love,
and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with Thee I will Thy will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with Thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

SERMON

When Life Stinks, Life Still Speaks

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

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 closest to 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.**

CHORAL AMEN

RESPONDING

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

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

Love Divine

arr. Mack Wilberg

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find thy promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver;
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy host above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY *standing as able*
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. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Today we celebrate the work of the Ecclesia Ministry, which leads services and serves lunch monthly in Marcus Garvey Park, as we seek to reach people who wish to praise and worship God in community.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN #76 *remain standing* LOVE UNKNOWN
My Song Is Love Unknown

BENEDICTION *remain standing* Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE J.S. Bach
Fugue in F, BWV 540

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Breakfast (<i>available for purchase</i>)	South Hall	8:30 AM
Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
Seekers Book Study	323 MLK	9:00 AM
Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Parent Connect	318 MLK & Online	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
Ecclesia Ministry	Assembly Hall Kitchen	12:50 PM
Advanced Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	1:00 PM
Business and Professional:	316 MLK & Online	1:00 PM
Women's Meeting		
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Lunar New Year Celebration	South Hall	1:30 PM
The Inspirational Choir:	Nave & Online	3:00 PM
We Need Healing		

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	10T	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	Online	11:00 AM
Multifaith Monday Vigils:	Columbus Circle	5:30 PM
Moral Witness for Democracy		
North Star Bible Study	Online	6:00 PM
Church Council Meeting	Online	6:30 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
(SPOP)Service Program for Older People	By Appointment Only	9:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Meeting	Online	1:30 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Intergenerational Communion	Assembly Hall	10:00 AM
Education Workshop		
Theatre of the Oppressed	Multipurpose Room	1:00 PM
Uptown Ministry		



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.

COMING SOON

Practicing Sabbath	Sunday, March 1	12:30 PM
Congregational Care Team Training	Sunday, March 1	9:00 AM
Speak Peace into Power: Advocacy Training with Action Corps	Monday, March 2	6:30 PM
Space for Grace	Wednesday, March 4	7:00 PM
A Lenten Healing Retreat	Friday, March 6	6:30 PM
Beloved Earth Community	Saturday, March 7	1:00 PM
The Good Goodbye	Sunday, March 8	1:30 PM

SERVICE PROGRAM FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Riverside Church partners with Service Program for Older People (SPOP). SPOP's mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults and to foster their independent living through the delivery of comprehensive mental health and supportive services, advocacy and education. If you need support please reach out to Riverside's Director of Social Services, Alexandra Pimentel at apimentel@trcnyc.org.

SPOP

SERVICE PROGRAM FOR OLDER PEOPLE

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.

PASTORAL TEAM AND 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



Dr. Jillian Langford
Associate Director of Education
and Faith Formation
(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