

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3, 2026 | 12:00 PM

Welcome to The Riverside Church

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.

A Good Friday Service of Love Made Public

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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.

ORGAN

Benedictus

Max Reger

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

BELL TOLL

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

HYMN #100

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

standing as able

ROCKINGHAM

THE FIRST WORD

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

Luke 23:34

**LAMENT FOR THE HARM WE CAUSE,
AND THE FORGIVENESS WE NEED**

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

EMBODIED MEDITATION

Close your hands gently into fists. In silence, name before God any harm, anger, or grief you may be carrying. As the first word from the cross is spoken, slowly open your hands as a sign of release, trusting that Christ speaks forgiveness even into the violence of the world.

MUSIC

Were You There

arr. Moses Hogan

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

Brenda Turner, soprano

THE SECOND WORD

You will be with Me in Paradise

Luke 23:43

REMEMBERING THOSE THE EMPIRE FORGETS

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

EMBODIED MEDITATION

As we continue this embodied meditation, and while the music plays, we invite you to take part in a visible act of remembrance. Take a piece of cloth or paper and write the name of a person, community, or group who has carried—or continues to carry—suffering in our world. This could be someone you know personally, someone whose life was taken by state-sanctioned violence, or a group often unseen or ignored—migrants in detention, communities living through war, neighbors struggling for housing or healthcare, or anyone whose dignity has been denied.

When you have written the name, place it somewhere you will see it often—on your nightstand, your refrigerator, your desk. Let it be a reminder of those forgotten by empire, and of Christ's promise in Luke 23:43: that even in places of suffering, Christ sees and remembers those the world overlooks. Once you have set the name in its place, pause and pray silently: God of mercy, remember them.

MUSIC

Pie Jesu from Requiem, Op. 9

Maurice Duruflé

*Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them rest.
Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them eternal rest.*

Irene King, *mezzo-soprano*

THE THIRD WORD

Woman, behold your son!

John 19:26

LAMENT FOR DEPORTATIONS AND FAMILY SEPARATIONS

Dr. Jillian Langford

EMBODIED MEDITATION

While the music is playing, take a prayer card from the front of the nave and pray for the family of the departed individual. Pray for protection from ICE and all systems that harm or reject families and their children or separate children from their families. Pray for the mental health and well being of families who have been separated.

MUSIC

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

arr. Moses Hogan

*Sometimes I feel like a motherless child.
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child.
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
a long ways from home, a long ways from home.*

*Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone.
Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone.
Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
a long ways from home, a long ways from home.*

Patrice Eaton, *mezzo-soprano*

THE FOURTH WORD

Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Matthew 27:46

HEAR OUR CRY

Rev. Jabe Ziino

EMBODIED MEDITATION

While the music is playing, say out loud or in quiet the cry Jesus made from the cross — Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? — in whatever language is closest to your heart. Pray for all whose cries are ignored or scorned by those in power.

MUSIC

God, my Father, oh why hast thou forsaken me?
from The Seven Last Words of Christ

arr. Moses Hogan

*All those who were my friends, all have now forsaken me,
and they that hate me do now prevail against me,
and he who I have cherished, he hath betray'd me.
Even the vine that I have chosen, and that I have planted:
Wherefore are thou now so strangely turned into bitterness,
that I by thee am crucified?*

Phillip Bullock, *baritone*

THE FIFTH WORD

I thirst.

John 19:28

THE OTHER SIDE OF THIRST

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

EMBODIED MEDITATION

Find pieces of bread and plates of vinegar placed around the Nave. Use the bread to sponge up a bit of vinegar. Notice what the sourness does to your mouth and to your tongue. With that same mouth and tongue, speak the name of a person or situation which causes you to thirst for justice. You may then pray quietly or out loud for that situation.

MUSIC

Organ Improvisation

Stephen Tharp

Stephen Tharp, *organ*

THE SIXTH WORD

It is finished!

John 19:30

LAMENT FOR THE UNFINISHED HEALING OF
CASUAL CRUELTY AND RETRIBUTION

Crystal Hammon

EMBODIED MEDITATION

While the music is playing, use the index finger of your dominant hand to trace the cross in the opposite palm, moving vertically from the top of the middle finger to the wrist, and horizontally across the palm where your fingers begin, silently saying, "Christ has finished. All can be made new." Then bring your palms together in a prayer position and say, "Amen."

Switch hands and repeat the same motions, silently saying, "The cross says 'tetelestai.' The spirit says begin." Then bring your palms together in a prayer position and say, "Amen."

MUSIC

Zerfließe, mein Herze from St. John Passion, BWV 245

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Dissolve, my heart, into floods of tears
To honor the Most High!
Report to the world and to heaven the distress:
Your Jesus is dead!*

Kendra Berensten, *soprano*

THE SEVENTH WORD

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:46

THE COMMENDATION

Rev. Tim Dalton

EMBODIED MEDITATION

Hold your hands tightly closed in front of you. Stay here for a few slow breaths. Let your closed hands symbolize everything you're clinging to right now—your fears, your griefs, your burdens, your desire for control in a chaotic and distorted world.

Hold silence for 30 seconds.

Now, open your hands and turn your palms upward. Let this posture reflect your willingness to surrender. Release what you cannot carry. Entrust your spirit, your life, your motives, your loved ones—and even your enemies—into God's hands.

Hold silence for 30 seconds.

Finally, stand as you are able and raise your open hands toward God. Let this be your act of surrender and trust, following the example of Jesus. We echo His words: "Father, into Your hands..." Let this become your own prayer of confidence: What will you offer to God for the building of the beloved community? Will you offer your actions, your anxieties, your ambitions? What gift will you place in God's hands to help reveal God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven?

MUSIC

Prayer

George Walker

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organ*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR LOVE MADE PUBLIC

Rev. Adriene Thorne

Inspired by Rev. Jessica Vazquez Torres

One: Source of Life who is known by many names: Love that Shows Up, Justice that Disrupts, and Light that Reveals what is True;

All: We gather with gratitude for this earth and for all who journey upon it. We give thanks for the web of life that binds us together in sacred belonging.

One: Holy God, the One who is Sacred Shelter for the vulnerable and Sustaining Strength for those denied protection;

All: We declare openly the times we have withheld love from public view—when we have turned away from injustice, ignored the cries of creation, or accepted systems that harm our neighbors and erode our shared freedoms.

One: We lament the erosion of civil liberties in our nation, and the public distortion of the Christian story itself. The Psalmist asks: Who is worthy to hold power and act in God's place?

All: Those who love truth more than comfort; who are unsettled by injustice; who show mercy to the poor; who defend the vulnerable; who release self-interest and honor the sacredness of all creation. Let this be our way!

One: We lament the twisting of Jesus' call to love neighbors into tax breaks for billionaires and bombs that murder children. Jesus, carpenter of Nazareth, asks: What is the greatest commandment?

All: To love the One who made us; to love our neighbor without condition; to resist oppression with life-giving courage; to stand with all who suffer; to act for justice; and to teach others to do the same. Let this be our witness!

One: Source of Love give us courage to open our eyes and see the many ways we continue to crucify you.

All: In the bodies of those living in the shadows, in the lives of those risking everything for their families, in the journey of those fleeing violence and persecution—conditions shaped in part by the choices of our nation.

One: Source of Love guide our daily living

All: So that our actions reflect the priceless worth of every person regardless of identity or circumstance.

One: Renew our commitment to truly loving and living like your children.

All: Living as if the ongoing goodness of your creation depends on each of us because in fact...it does. Amen.

Silent Meditation: Prayer Walk for Jesus the Undocumented Neighbor

On the streets of New York City, our undocumented neighbors live in fear of being unjustly seized by agents of ICE. In the midst of this reality, they remain productive and contributing members of our city and our shared life. For them, and for all immigrants, we pray.

You are invited to silently and prayerfully walk the perimeter, or outer edge, of the nave and reflect on how the suffering of those unjustly detained mirrors the suffering of Jesus Christ on his journey to the cross. Each piece of art depicts a moment from Jesus' path to the cross alongside the trials our undocumented neighbors face today.

If you are worshiping from home, you will see a video of each piece of art accompanied by a short prayer and reflection. If walking is difficult, you are invited to stand or sit in silent solidarity. As you walk, stand, or sit, pray for a change in hearts, minds, consciences, policies, and legislation so that justice, peace, and shalom (the fullness of wholeness and well-being) may become a reality for all people. When you have completed your pilgrimage or witness, remain as long as you wish to rest in the silence. Depart in silence as you feel led.

MUSIC
Just For Me

Donnie McClurkin

*What does the cross of Jesus mean?
It's more than songs we sing
Much more than the emblem on your chain
But it means I am free
From the chains of slavery
And the blood He shed won't let my sins remain*

*Upon the cross my savior died
The lamb was crucified
Showed us love that this world has never known
O what love divine
Truer love you'll never find
O that we might live
Love came and died alone*

*For the cross will always represent the love God has for me
When the Lord of glory heaven-sent gave all on calvary
(He did it) just for me, just for me
Jesus came and did it just for me*

*Just for me, just for me
Jesus came and did it just for me
Just for me, just for me
Jesus came and did it just for me*

Sandra Huff, soloist

BELL TOLL

The congregation departs in silence.
Anyone who wishes may remain for silent meditation and prayer.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Holy Saturday | April 4, 2026

Labyrinth Walk | 12:00 PM | Assembly Hall

Is America Possible? | April 4, 2026

59th Anniversary of
Beyond Vietnam | 3:00 PM | Nave

Resurrection Sunday | April 5, 2026

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Holy Humor Sunday | April 12, 2026

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online



Jesus Carries His Cross

SaintAnnesHelper.com

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love

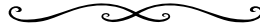


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ABOUT RIVERSIDE

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