

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 17, 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:

"The truest expression of a people is in its dances and its music. Bodies never lie."

-Agnes de Mille

## A question for reflection:

If faith has a 'technique,' what habits or postures help you take on the mind of Christ in everyday life?

## Connect With Us

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



## Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



**Cover art: Vincent van Gogh, The Bearers of the Burden (Miner's Wives Carrying Sacks) (1881). Kröller-Müller Museum. Image courtesy of World History Archive / Alamy Stock Photo.\*Learn more on page 9\***

## ASL Interpreter

Avery Gordon & Canara Price

*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

Air and Dance  
Crown Him with Many Crowns  
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alice Gomez  
arr. Beverly Buchanan  
arr. Beverly Buchanan

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

## HANDBELLS

Give Me Jesus  
Let All Things Now Living

Traditional Spiritual, arr. John A. Behnke  
Welsh Folk Melody, arr. Cathy Moglebust

The Riverside Ringers  
Daniel Potter, *director*

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

## INTROIT

When in Our Music God is Glorified

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

*When in our music God is glorified,  
and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried:  
Alleluia!*

*And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
when utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
Alleluia!*

*Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia! Amen!*

The Riverside Ringers  
The Riverside Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*standing as able*

Petal St. Rose

*One:* When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful:

**All: Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.**

*One:* And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled:

**All: Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.**

*One:* And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad:

**All: Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Holy God.**

*One:* Thank you all; thank you, God. Let us worship!

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

## INVOCATION

*standing as able*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN #142

*remain standing*

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

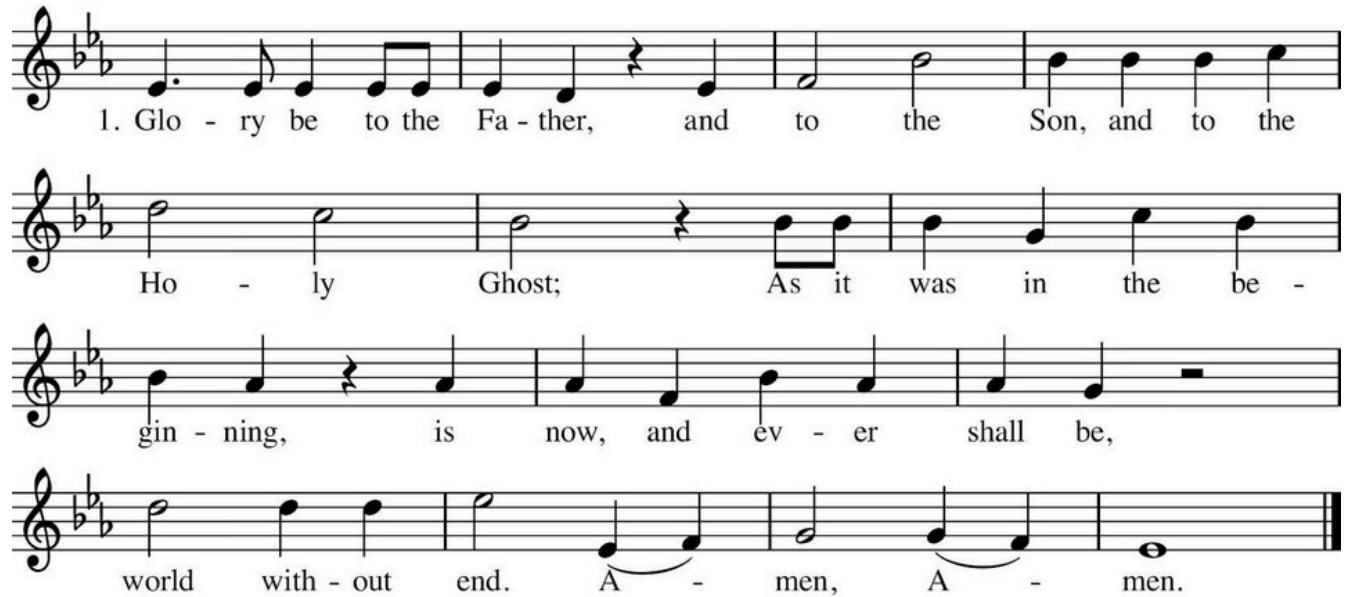
## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Jillian Langford

*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.

## LISTENING

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

### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

David Kirkpatrick

Luke 6:43-45 (*Pew Bible page 65*)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT READING

The Omega Dance Company

Philippians 2:1-13 (*Pew Bible page 197*)

*A lightly paraphrased rendering adapted for worship. This translation most closely resembles the NRSV/NRSVUE with influence from the NIV and ESV.*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

## ANTHEM

How Lovely Are The Messengers from *Saint Paul*

Felix Mendelssohn

*How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.  
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.*

## SERMON

The Technique of Faith

Rev. Adriene Thorne

## AN EMBODIED MEDITATION

## MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## 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

*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

Rev. Tim Dalton

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Old Time Religion

Arr. Moses Hogan

*Give me that old time religion,  
Give me that old time religion,  
Give me that old time religion,  
It's good enough for me.*

*It was good for the Hebrew children,  
It was good for the Hebrew children,  
It was good for the Hebrew children,  
It's good enough for me.*

*It was good for Paul and Silas,  
It was good for Paul and Silas,  
It was good for Paul and Silas,  
It's good enough for me.*

*It was good for my grandmother,  
It was good for my grandmother,  
It was good for my grandmother,  
It's good enough for me.*

*Give me that old time religion,  
Give me that old time religion,  
Give me that old time religion,  
It's good enough for me.*

**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. Derrick T. Jordan

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Church Council, Commissions, and Committees as they begin a new year of dreaming, planning, and discerning the many ways that we might be Christ's breath and heartbeat in the world.*

**SENDING**

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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #148**

*remain standing*

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

**BENEDICTION**

*remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

**POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

Stephen Tharp

Stephen Tharp, *organist*

## HISTORY ABOUT COVER ART

\*The Bearers of the Burden (Miner's Wives Carrying Sacks), 1881, Pen in brown and black ink, white and grey opaque watercolour, on [originally] blue laid paper  
– Vincent van Gogh

In the Philippians passage Paul urges his readers to cultivate humility and exhorts them to take Christ as their model.

Vincent van Gogh has been described as displaying a 'passionate identification with Christ' throughout his life (Pritchard 1971: 15), but most intensely in the years immediately preceding his emergence as an artist. Having undertaken theological studies, he was appointed as a lay pastor in the impoverished mining district of Borinage in Belgium in 1879. Van Gogh was obsessed with following Christ in his solidarity with those who serve, and for some months lived in a miner's hut, not counting entitlement to the pastor's lodgings 'a thing to be grasped' (Philippians 2:6). He even went down into the dangerous Marcasse mine. Later he would describe this as 'the depth of the abyss' (Van Gogh 1978: 200). Like Christ, he had descended. Not long after, having been dismissed from his position, he again modelled himself on Christ: 'I shall rise again: I will take up my pencil...' (Van Gogh 1978: 136). Here we see the result.

As in so many societies, the labour of women involves transporting heavy loads (children, water, crops). Here they are bent double under sacks of coal gleaned from slag-heaps to burn in their homes. The simple documentation of their work can be seen as a redemptive artistic action expressing Van Gogh's continuing aspiration to the mind of Christ.

But there is more; the original English title almost certainly alludes to Matthew 23:4 where Jesus denounces the religious leaders for laying heavy burdens on ordinary people. The viaduct in the distance is a triumphant monument to the industry that determines the lives of the women. Behind it, separated from their world of servitude but benefiting from it, stand a Protestant and a Catholic church; these women are at once abandoned and oppressed by the hypocrisy of institutional religion.

This, we are reminded, was also true of Christ Jesus, for hanging in the right foreground we see him who 'became obedient unto death ... on a cross' (Philippians 2:8), bearing the burden of the world, in deep solidarity with suffering humanity.

# OMEGA DANCE COMPANY

**Founder:** Carla DeSola

**Co-directors:** Martha Chapman, Rebecca Reuter

**Associate Directors:** Vanity David, Maura Burns

*<https://www.omegadancecompany.org/>*

Omega is a professional sacred dance company comprised of professional dancers and educators of diverse backgrounds ministering to communities of faith throughout the New York City metropolitan area, offering dance in worship, workshops and concerts with spiritual or social justice themes. Omega believes in the power of dance and movement to reveal the sacred.

## DANCERS

Maura Burns

Martha Chapman

Vanity David

Apollonia Holzer

Maki Kitahara

Aliyah Miller

**Processional:** All Hail The Power of Jesus Name

**Choreography:** Maura Burns, Martha Chapman, Apollonia Holzer

**Danced Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-13

**Choreography:** Apollonia Holzer and the dancers

**Speaker:** Martha Chapman

**Dance Meditation:** We Are In God

**Workshop Leader:** Apollonia Holzer

**Recessional:** At The Name of Jesus

**Choreography:** Maura Burns, Apollonia Holzer

## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, MAY 17

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<b>Breakfast</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )	South Hall	8:30 AM
<b>Fresh Start</b>	Online	8:30 AM
<b>Seekers Book Study</b>	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
<b>Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew</b>	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>Open Bible Study</b>	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>Parent Connect</b>	318 MLK & Online	10:00 AM
<b>Grace Space Nursery</b>	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 AM
<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	South Hall Lobby	After Service
<b>Virtual Coffee Hour</b>	Online	After Service
<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )	South Hall	After Service
<b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	South Hall & Online	1:00 PM
<b>Carillon Recital</b>	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, MAY 18

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	330 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Tower League Bible Study</b>	Online	11:00 AM
<b>Multifaith Monday:</b>	Columbus Circle	5:30 PM
<b>Witness to Democracy</b>		

## TUESDAY, MAY 19

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Building Committee Meeting</b>	Online	7:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Older Adults French Group</b>	321 MLK	10:30 AM
<b>Midweek Bible Study</b>	Online	12:30 PM
<b>Social Service Committee Meeting</b>	Online	5:00 PM
<b>Intermediate Beginners Biblical Hebrew</b>	Online	5:30 PM

## THURSDAY, MAY 21

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	411 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Stewardship Committee Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>Budget &amp; Planning Committee Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>Short Circles: "Circle of Grace" with Rev. Charlene Wingate</b>	Online	7:00 PM

## FRIDAY, MAY 22

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
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Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](http://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.

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

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**Theatre of the Oppressed Uptown  
Ministry**

Multipurpose Room

1:00 PM

**COMING SOON**

**Meet the MCPL Ministries**

Tuesday, May 26

6:30 PM

**Organ Recital: Stephen Tharp**

Tuesday, May 26

7:00 PM

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**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://trcnyc.org/email). Be sure to add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto: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](http://trcnyc.org/app) to stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

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## 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

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

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## 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