

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
TRINITY SUNDAY | PRIDE EVE SUNDAY  
MAY 31, 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:

"All I want to say to you is 'You are the Beloved,' and all I hope is that you can hear these words as spoken to you with all the tenderness and force that love can hold."

-Henri Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved*

"In God's family, there are no outsiders. All are insiders. Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight, Jew and Arab... all belong."

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

## A question for reflection:

Have you ever been told — by a religion, a culture, or a person — that you needed to change who you are in order to belong? What helped you find your way back to yourself?

## Connect With Us

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



## Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover art “Praying at Gethsemane” by He Qi (1999)

## ASL Interpreter

Canara Price and Sheldon 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

Ellacombe  
Fantasia on “O Filii Et Filiae”

John Diercks  
John Hammond

Joseph Min, *carillonneur*

## ORGAN

Rhapsody in D-flat, Op. 17

Herbert Howells

Stephen Tharp, *organist*

## STRINGS

String Quartet No. 9 in F  
Presto  
Minuet and Trio  
Allegro

Joseph Haydn

The Riverside Community Strings  
Kristina Giles, *director*

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Tim Dalton

## INTROIT

Trinitarian Blessing

Brian Wren & Alice Parker

*May the Sending One sing in you,  
May the Seeking One walk with you,  
May the Greeting One stand by you,  
in your gladness and in your grieving.*

*May the Gifted One relieve you,  
May the Given One retrieve you,  
May the Giving One receive you,  
in your falling and your restoring.*

*May the Binding One unite you,  
May the One Beloved invite you,  
May the Loving One delight you,  
Three-in-One, joy in life unending.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*standing as able*

Sandra Chapman

*One:* Married, divorced and single here,

***All:* it's one family that mingles here.**

*One:* Conservative and liberal here,

***All:* we've all gotta give a little here.**

*One:* Big and small here,

***All:* there's room for us all here.**

*One:* Doubt and believe here,

***All:* we all can receive here.**

*One:* LGBTQ and straight here,

***All:* there's no hate here.**

*One:* Non-binary, woman and man here,

***All:* everyone can here.**

*One:* Whatever your race here,

***All:* for all of us, grace here.**

*One:* In imitation of the ridiculous love Almighty God has for each of us and all of us,

***All:* let us live and love without labels! Let us worship God!**

Our Ethos from Highland Church, Denver, CO. Used with permission.

**INVOCATION**

*standing as able*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #138**

*remain standing*

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICEA

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

*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.

## ANTHEM

Amazing

Rebecca Thompson

*Thank you God for this amazing day.  
Thank you God for work and play,  
For friends and family and animals too,  
On this amazing day!  
Look around you'll see  
God's Holy Spirit everywhere.  
There's happiness, kindness, love, joy, peace,  
Overflowing for all to see.  
Thank you God for this amazing day.  
Thank you God for work and play,  
For friends and family and animals too,  
On this amazing day!*

The Cherub Choir  
Sharon Prichard, *director*  
Yuliya Basis, *accompanist*

A Peaceful Alleluia

Jean Anne Shafferman

*Alleluia, sing alleluia, sing, O sing alleluia. Peace, peace, O sing of peace. Alleluia.*

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

## LISTENING

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

### HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Lisa Page

Psalm 67:1-3 (*Pew Bible page 529*)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Audrey St. Clair

Isaiah 56:3-5 (*Pew Bible page 686*)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Dr. Jillian Langford

# HYMN

For Everyone Born

Shirley Erena Murray

*Stanza 1-cantor*

*Stanzas 2 and 3- choir and congregation*



For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,\_\_\_  
For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,\_\_\_  
For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,\_\_\_



for eve - ry - one born,\_\_\_ clean wa - ter and bread;\_\_\_  
a voice to be heard,\_\_\_ a part in the song,\_\_\_  
to live with-out fear,\_\_\_ and sim - ply to be,\_\_\_



a shel - ter, a space,\_\_\_ a safe place for grow - ing,\_\_\_  
the hands of a child\_\_\_ in hands that are wrin - kled,\_\_\_  
to work, to speak out\_\_\_ to wit - ness and wor - ship,\_\_\_



for eve - ry - one born,\_\_\_ a star\_\_\_ o - ver -  
for young and for old,\_\_\_ the right\_\_\_ to be -  
for eve - ry - one born,\_\_\_ the right\_\_\_ to be

## *Refrain*



head. And God\_\_\_ will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and  
long.  
free.



joy,\_\_\_ com - pas-sion and peace: yes, God\_\_\_ will de-light when we are cre-



a - tors of jus - tice,\_\_\_ jus - tice and joy.

**MOMENT OF 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

Ain'-a That Good News!

William L. Dawson

*I got a crown up in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I got a crown up in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I'm-a gonna lay down this world,  
gonna shoulder up-a my cross.  
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,  
Ain't-a that good news!*

*I got a harp up in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I got a harp up in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I'm-a gonna lay down this world,  
gonna shoulder up-a my cross.  
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,  
Ain't-a that good news!*

*I got a robe up in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I got a robe up in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I'm-a gonna lay down this world,  
gonna shoulder up-a my cross.  
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,  
Ain't-a that good news!*

*I got a Savior in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I got a Savior in-a that kingdom,  
Ain't-a that good news!  
I'm-a gonna lay down this world,  
gonna shoulder up-a my cross.  
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,  
Ain't-a that good news!*

**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. Jim Keat

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Audit Committee, which ensures that the Congregation can trust the audited financials it receives and be confident in the processes that protect the purse of the Church.*

**SENDING**

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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #440**

*remain standing*

In Christ There is No East or West

MC KEE

**BENEDICTION**

*remain standing*

Rev. Brandan Robertson

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata in B Minor

Eugène Gigout

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

## ABOUT OUR GUEST PREACHER

### Rev. Brandan Robertson



Rev. Brandan Robertson is an acclaimed author, activist, and public theologian working at the intersection of spirituality, sexuality, and social renewal. He serves as Pastor of Sunnyside Reformed Church in New York City and Theologian-in-Residence at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he is also the Founder and Executive Director of DevOUT, a nonprofit dedicated to countering far-right religious narratives and amplifying inclusive theological voices through media and education.

Known widely as the "TikTok Pastor," Robertson's digital ministry reaches nearly 400,000 followers and millions of viewers worldwide. He has authored or contributed to more than twenty books on faith and justice, including *True Inclusion: Creating Communities of Radical Embrace*, an INDIES Book of the Year Award finalist. His work has been featured by TIME Magazine, NBC, CNN, and The Washington Post, and he has spoken at venues such as the White House, Oxford University, and the Parliament of the World's Religions.

A passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ equality, Robertson was named to Rolling Stone's "Hot List" and Out Magazine's 2025 OUT100. He lives in New York City and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Drew University.

# MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

## ★ A QUICK VOTER CHECKLIST ★



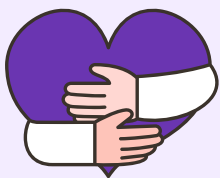
### ✓ BEFORE ELECTION DAY

- Check your voter registration
- Register to vote if needed
- Mark important election dates on your calendar
- Decide: Early Vote, Mail-In Ballot, or Election Day
- Find your polling place
- Review your sample ballot ahead of time
- Bring required ID/documents



### 📖 GET INFORMED

- Use nonpartisan voter guides like:
  - Vote411
  - ActiVote
  - League of Women Voters
  - MyVote Project
  - Call or Text 866-OUR-VOTE
- Research candidates and ballot issues
- Talk with friends, neighbors, and coworkers about voting



### 🤝 VOLUNTEER FOR DEMOCRACY

- Volunteer with [NYC Votes](#)
- Become a poll worker
- Help monitor polling sites and support voter access
- Help register voters or organize a voter registration drive
- Join youth organizing with [GenVote](#)
- Volunteer with:
  - [Election Protection Coalition](#)
  - [We The Action](#)
  - [NYC Votes](#)
- Offer rides to the polls
- Share voting resources online
- Join postcard writing or phone banking campaigns
- Encourage your community to Get Out The Vote!

**YOUR VOTE  
HAS POWER**



## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

### SUNDAY, MAY 31

---

<b>Breakfast</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )	South Hall	8:30 AM
<b>Fresh Start</b>	Online	8:30 AM
<b>Congregational Care Team Training</b>	Multipurpose Room	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>Advanced Biblical Hebrew</b>	314 MLK & Online	1:00 PM
<b>Carillon Recital</b>	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
<b>Queer &amp; Christian: Pride Eve Book Talk</b>	South Hall & Online	1:30 PM

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

### MONDAY, JUNE 1

---

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art Of Movement</b>	10T	10:00 AM
<b>Multifaith Monday:</b>	Columbus Circle	5:30 PM
<b>Witness to Democracy</b>		

### TUESDAY, JUNE 2

---

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
-----------------------	--------	---------

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

---

<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>Intermediate Beginners Biblical Hebrew</b>	Online	5:30 PM

## THURSDAY, JUNE 4

---

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	411 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Tower League Meeting</b>	Online	1:30 PM
<b>Personnel &amp; Salary Committee Meeting</b>	Online	6:00 PM
<b>Short Circle: Helpful Ways to Read the Bible</b>	Online	7:00 PM

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

---

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
-----------------------	--------	---------

## SATURDAY, JUNE 6

---

<b>Bible Basics</b>	8T	10:00 AM
<b>Beloved Earth Community</b>	Online	1:00 PM



Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](https://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

<b>Blessed Minds: Understanding Neurodiversity in the Body of Christ</b>	Sunday, June 7	9:30 AM
<b>Tower League Rooftop Cookout</b>	Thursday, June 11	12:00 PM
<b>Bridge the Divides: A Debate Workshop</b>	Sunday, June 7	1:30 PM
<b>The Father, The Son, and The Godfather: Music of J.S. Bach, CPE Bach, Telemann</b>	Sunday, June 7	3:00 PM
<b>Recital: Rooted</b>	Sunday, June 14	3:00 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](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.

# LGBTQ+ PRIDE FLAGS

Source: Human Rights Campaign



Gilbert Baker  
Pride Flag



Traditional  
Pride Flag



Philadelphia  
Pride Flag



Progress  
Pride Flag



Intersex-Inclusive  
Progress Pride Flag



Queer  
Pride Flag



Lesbian  
Pride Flag



Trans-Inclusive Gay  
Men's Pride Flag



Bisexual  
Pride Flag



Pansexual  
Pride Flag



Asexual  
Pride Flag



Demisexual  
Pride Flag



Polyamory  
Pride Flag



Polysexual  
Pride Flag



Transgender  
Pride Flag



Nonbinary  
Pride Flag



Intersex  
Pride Flag



Genderfluid  
Pride Flag



Genderqueer  
Pride Flag



Agender  
Pride Flag



Bigender  
Pride Flag



Demigender  
Pride Flag



Pride of  
Africa Flag



Queer People of  
Color Pride Flag



Two-Spirit  
Pride Flag

---

## 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

---

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