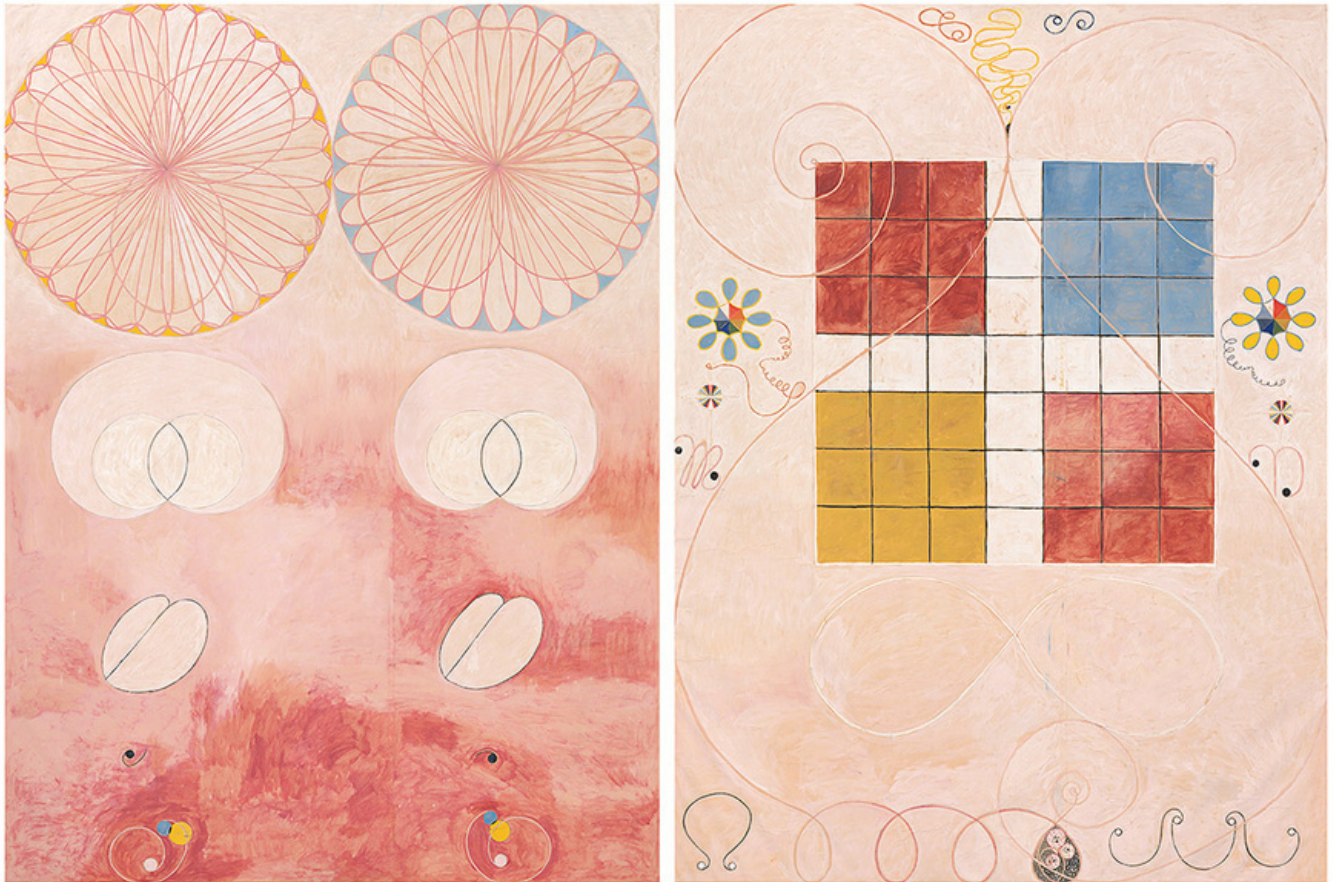


THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9, 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:

“Dignified or not, believable or not, ours is a God perpetually on bended knee, doing everything it takes to convince stubborn and petulant children that they are seen and loved. It is no more beneath God to speak to us using poetry, proverb, letters, and legend than it is for a mother to read storybooks to her daughter at bedtime. This is who God is. This is what God does.”

-Rachel Held Evans,

Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again

A question for reflection:

How does scripture speak to your odyssey as a Christian?

Connect With Us

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



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover Art Hilma af Klint (Swedish, 1862–1944). The Ten Largest, No. 9-10, Old Age 1907.

(For more art information please visit page 10)

ASL Interpreter

Canara Price and M. Lisa Lockley

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

Coral Bells

Alice Gomez

Lament and Alleluia

Alice Gomez

O Waly, Waly

Traditional English Melody, arr. Alice Gomez

Carla Staffaroni, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Nimrod, No. 9 of the 'Variations on an Original Theme', Op. 36

Edward Elgar
arr. by W. H. Harris

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Jillian Langford

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able

Amos de Leon

One: As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship –

***All:* We bring the burdens of the week.**

One: We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

***All:* We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.**

One: We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

***All:* We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.**

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

INVOCATION

standing as able

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 276

remain standing

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

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

Set Me As A Seal

René Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Sandra Chapman

Luke 18:6-8 (*Pew Bible page 81*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT READING

Megan Piña

2 Timothy 3:14—4:8, 16-18 (*Pew Bible page 213*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Dr. Jillian Langford

ANTHEM

He Will Keep You (Psalm 121)

Stephen Murphy

*I will lift mine eyes unto the hills from which comes my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made all
heaven and earth; He won't let thy foot to slip*

*He will keep you from all evil, He who never sleeps (slumbers) Oh, He will keep your life, safely... Even in
your last "Goodbye."*

*He won't let thy foot to slip
He will keep you from all evil,
He who never sleeps
(never slumbers)*

*Oh, He will keep your life, safely...
Even when your breath
Returns to the Most High...
Even in your last "Goodbye."
He will keep you.*

Five Note Theory

SERMON

Our Holy Odyssey

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

MOMENT OF 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.**

PRAYER LIST

Yvonne Allen	Tom Jarosz
Kathia Almeida	George Johnson
Mace Anderson	Lee Kopf
Dr. Colleen Birchett	Jordan Konicki
Jewel Bletcher	Lisa Kremer
Caed Brawner	Orlando Lagforega
Lorraine Burchall	Carol Lee
Loring Bush	Margaret Madden
Valda Campbell	Ayana Mathis, Christina Cooke, and the child they were fostering
Linda Chu	Mark Meredith
Jim Dager and John Souza	Juanita Merritt
Kara Dago-Clark	Nancy Mosley
Lourdes Davila-Rojas	Joyce Norris
Morrell Dooley and family	Dolores O'Connor
Leslie Forshey	Libby Turnock
Karissa Garner & her son,	Janet Wise Thomas
Isaac Cooke & mother,	
Maria Garner	
Bernard George	We continue to grieve with the
Sharan Harper	family of Daniel Yanes in his
Mary Jo Page	death.
Nickie Palmer	
Megan Pell	We continue to grieve with the
Celena Pena's	family of Jeremiah Drake in the
Grandmother Janice and	death of his Aunt, Emma Lou
Aunt Joy	Drake and the family of Irene
Joan Ricketts	King in the death of her Brother-
Ann Rocker	in-law, Alfred J. Walker.
Danielle Scott	
John Seabrook, Jr.	We also continue to grieve with
Shirley Sutherland	the family of Rev. Jonathan
Winston Huang	Favors-Grimes on the death of
Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin	his grandmother, Brenda Carter
and son, Caycen Chaplin	Favors.
Giau Huynh	

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

Give it Up

Stephen Murphy

*You gotta give it up, gotta give it up
'Cause every little thing you're worried about
Will all be over in the mornin'
Give it up, give it up
'Cause every little thing you're worried about
Will all be over in the mornin'
When His word just seems so impossible to receive
Just believe, and you'll see His glory*

*But wait, there's Martha standing at the grave (misbehaving)
With all that doubt in her mind
(Oh, sometimes) it's hard to find that faith
That my God is expecting of us
She told Jesus,
"Had you gotten here a little earlier...
Maybe my dear old brother...
Might've not-a perished...
(might've got to cherish him)..."
Sometimes this old world can make you feel so blue
If you're feeling heavy laden, here is what you do*

*You got to give it up, got to give it up
'Cause every little thing you're worried about
Will all be over in the mornin'
Give it up, give it (all) up
'Cause every little thing you're worried about
Will all be over in the mornin'
When His word just seems so impossible to receive
Just believe, and you'll see His glory*

Five Note Theory

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. Charlene A. Wingate

*Today we celebrate the ministry of The Seekers, for its ongoing study whereby spirituality is explored
through the writings of progressive theologians, offering new and mature ways of understanding the divine
that deepen our life of faith.*

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

remain standing

CWM RHONDDA

BENEDICTION

remain standing

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

POSTLUDE

The Solid Rock

arr. Asriel Davis

Asriel Davis, guest *organist*

COVER ART INFORMATION

In the very last painting of The Ten Largest, many of the symbols from previous paintings recur, though in a more restrained form. The empty light surfaces create a harmonious calm. In the small egg or droplet in the lower half of the picture, the grid and the spirals are reflected in miniature. The horizontal eight symbolises infinity.

GUEST ARTISTS

Five Note Theory is a five-part vocal jazz ensemble celebrated for its tight harmonies, eclectic presence, and fresh take on jazz classics. Blending gospel, jazz, classical, pop, and world cultural influences, the group delivers music with rhythmic precision and expressive storytelling that feels both timeless and fresh.

Jormilit Garcia (*Soprano*) – A jazz studies major at Western Michigan University and current member of Gold Company. The Kennedy Center alongside Jacob Collier for his DJESSE Vol. 4 tour is just one of many performance highlights.

Marissa Zechinato (*Alto*) – A DMV-based singer-songwriter and educator with a decade of experience as a vocal coach. She is a former member of Howard University's premier jazz vocal ensemble group, Afro Blue. Her performance highlights with them include the Apollo Theater, the White House, NPR's Tiny Desk, and an appearance with Esperanza Spalding.

Leonard Brown Jr. (*Tenor*) – A versatile vocalist, instrumentalist, songwriter, arranger, and producer. As a student, he toured extensively with the Oakwood University Aeolians and contributed vocals to Jacob Collier's DJESSE Vol. 4. As a producer, he works in the music publishing space for sync (television & film).

Stephen M. Murphy (*Baritone*) – A founding member and the ensemble's lead arranger, has arranged for Donald Lawrence, Voces8, the King's Singers, and King's Return. In 2024, he co-arranged a choral piece that premiered at the prestigious BBC Proms. As a producer, he also works in the music publishing space for sync (television & film).

Asriel Davis (*Bass/Piano*) – A founding member and in-house arranger, is a multifaceted musician whose talents span performance, arranging, and education. Named one of The Diapason magazine's "Top 20 Under 30" organists in 2023, he is a highly respected pianist and organist in the U.S. He has several published compositions and arrangements with the esteemed GIA Publications. With the release of their debut single, "Just You, Just Me," in July 2025—featuring the renowned soloist G. Thomas Allen—Five Note Theory is carving out a place as one of the most exciting new ensembles on today's vocal jazz landscape.

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

Breakfast (<i>available for purchase</i>)	South Hall	8:30 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Zoom	9:00 AM
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Zoom	9:30 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
Stories of Shared Resilience: Exploring the history of New York City's Chinatown	9T	1:00 PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Membership, Care, & Parish Life	Online	6:00 PM
Commission Meeting		
Worship Commission Meeting	Online	6:30 PM
Mission & Social Justice Commission Meeting	Online	7:00 PM
Education Commission	Online	7:00 PM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Nominating Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM



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.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Midweek Bible Study	Online	12:30 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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COMING SOON

Stories of Shared Resilience: Exploring the history of New York City's Chinatown	Sunday, August 16	1:00 PM
Flow: Finding God in Every Drop	Monday, August 24	9:00 AM

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

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
490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027
212.870.6700 - trcnyc.org