

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 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:

“Living by a love ethic we learn to value loyalty and a commitment to sustained bonds over material advancement.”

-bell hooks, All About Love: New Visions

A question for reflection:

In a world that often treats relationships as disposable, what does your faith look like under pressure?

Connect With Us

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



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



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www.heqiart.com

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ASL Interpreter

Avery Gordon 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

Fireflies and Ambiance
Come, Though Almighty King

Frank Della Penna
arr. Beverly Buchanan

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Antiphon V: How Fair and how Pleasant art Thou

Marcel Dupre

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able

Stephen Pierre-Paul

One: O God, our souls thirst for You.

***All:* We come seeking the One who satisfies every thirst and renews every spirit.**

One: Your steadfast love is better than life.

***All:* We lift our voices in grateful praise for Your faithful love.**

One: Come, let us worship the God who strengthens, shelters, and fills us with joy.

***All:* With grateful hearts and open spirits, let us worship God together.**

INVOCATION

standing as able

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 482

remain standing

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Keat

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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Alexa Donaphin

Matthew 5:3-9 (*Pew Bible page 4*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HEBREW BIBLE READING

David Orcutt & Irene King

Ruth 1:1-22 (*Pew Bible page 241*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

SOLO

The Corinthian Song

V. Michael McKay

*I am troubled, yet not distressed
Perplexed, but not in despair
I'm a vessel full of power
With a treasure, none can compare*

*Persecuted, but not forsaken
Cast down, but not destroyed
I'm a vessel full of Holy Ghost power
I've got a treasure from the Lord*

*Bruised and battered but not broken
Born in sin but from sin set free
I am a vessel full of Holy Ghost power
I have got a treasure in me*

*Thank you Father for your power
It has resurrected me
Over painful circumstances
That my poor soul could not flee*

*Thank you Father
For your power, it has resurrected me
Over painful circumstances
That my poor soul could not flee*

*Thank you Father
For your power, it has resurrected me
Over painful circumstances
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*Thank you Father
For your power, it has resurrected me
Over painful circumstances
That my poor soul could not flee*

Sandra Huff, guest soloist

SERMON

Diamond Loyalty

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Tim Dalton

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

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

I'm Gonna Sing Till the Spirit

arr. Moses Hogan

*I'm gonna sing 'til the spirit moves in my heart.
I'm gonna sing 'til the spirit moves in my heart.
I'm gonna sing 'til the spirit moves in my heart.
I'm gonna sing 'til Jesus comes.*

*It was grace that brought me.
It was grace that taught me.
It was grace that kept me.
And it's grace that will lead me home.*

Can't you feel the spirit movin'.

*I'm gonna shout 'til the spirit moves in my heart.
I'm gonna shout 'til the spirit moves in my heart.
I'm gonna shout 'til the spirit moves in my heart.
I'm gonna shout 'til Jesus comes.*

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 the Sharing & Densford Funds, which offer grants to ministries around the world, so that all people may know safety, have access to education, clean drinking water, and live each day knowing their worth in God's beloved community.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 145

remain standing

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

BENEDICTION

remain standing

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Albert L. Travis

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

GUEST ARTIST

Sandra Huff



Sandra Huff is an educator, singer, songwriter, actress, and musician. A native New Yorker now residing in Jersey City, New Jersey, she has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, and Japan. Sandra serves as a worship leader at Agape Family Worship Center in Rahway, New Jersey, and as Director of Music for Women of Divine Destiny, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women in leadership. Sandra earned a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Anthropology from New York University and a Master of Science in General and Special Education from Touro College. She is currently a PhD candidate in General Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition and Instruction.

Throughout her musical and theatrical career, Sandra has shared the stage with renowned artists including Patti LaBelle, Josh Groban, Dorothy Norwood, Michael and Regina Winans, Tramaine Hawkins, Queen Esther Marrow, and Gloria Gaynor. The New York Times praised her portrayal of Sandy in *A Pure Gospel Christmas* and *A Pure Gospel Valentine*. She also appeared as Sister Carrie in the celebrated gospel musical *Mama, I Want to Sing!* at the Dempsey Theater in Harlem, New York. Sandra's recording credits include featured solo performances on "Get Up," a house track produced by David Guetta, and Bobby D'Ambrosio's house rendition of "Joy to the World." Her solo projects include *Love Takes Time* and *Where Eagles Fly*, which blends traditional and contemporary gospel music. She was also featured on the *Mama, I Want to Sing!* soundtrack and appeared as a soloist on *Agape Live I* and *Agape Live II*. Her contributions to these projects include serving as a soloist and co-arranger for "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" and "Fall Fresh." Her single "Let All the People Shout," released in 2018, continues to receive airplay on gospel media outlets.

In addition to her work in education and the performing arts, Sandra is the founder and chief executive officer of the Conservatory of Fine Arts. The organization creates opportunities for students to pursue professional careers in the arts, regardless of their social or economic circumstances. Under her leadership, the Conservatory established a community choir that has become well known throughout the Tri-State area. Composed of community members and professional vocalists, the choir collaborates to provide training and performances at schools, churches, and community-based events. Through education, ministry, and the arts, Sandra remains committed to developing others and creating music that uplifts, empowers, and inspires.

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

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

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Building Committee Meeting	Online	7:00 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 19

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Budget & Planning Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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COMING SOON

Theatre of the Oppressed	Saturday, August 22	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
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