

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4, 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:

Faith isn't faith until it's all you're holding on to.

-Unknown

A question for reflection:

What is the 'raging sea' you are waiting for God to part and God is waiting for you to step into?

Connect With Us

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



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover Art: Passage of the Jews through the Red Sea (1891) by Ivan Aivazovsky

(For cover art details please visit page 12)

ASL Interpreter

Canara Price & Terrona Evans

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

Ballade

Intermezzo Molto Capriccioso

Jef Rottiers

Eugeen Uten

Cao Linh Pham, *guest carillonneur*

ORGAN

Adagio

Frank Bridge

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Min. Kathy Lee

INTROIT

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughn Williams

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
blessed are they who trust in the Lord.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able

Micah Niang

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

All: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

All: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

All: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love. Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Global Ministries. Japan (2026). A global table of grace: World Communion Sunday 2026 worship resource.

INVOCATION

standing as able

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 386

remain standing

O for a World

AZMON

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Dana Minaya

Matt 2:13-15 (*Pew Bible page 2*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Jeannie Lee & Sandra Chapman

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 (*Pew Bible page 60*)

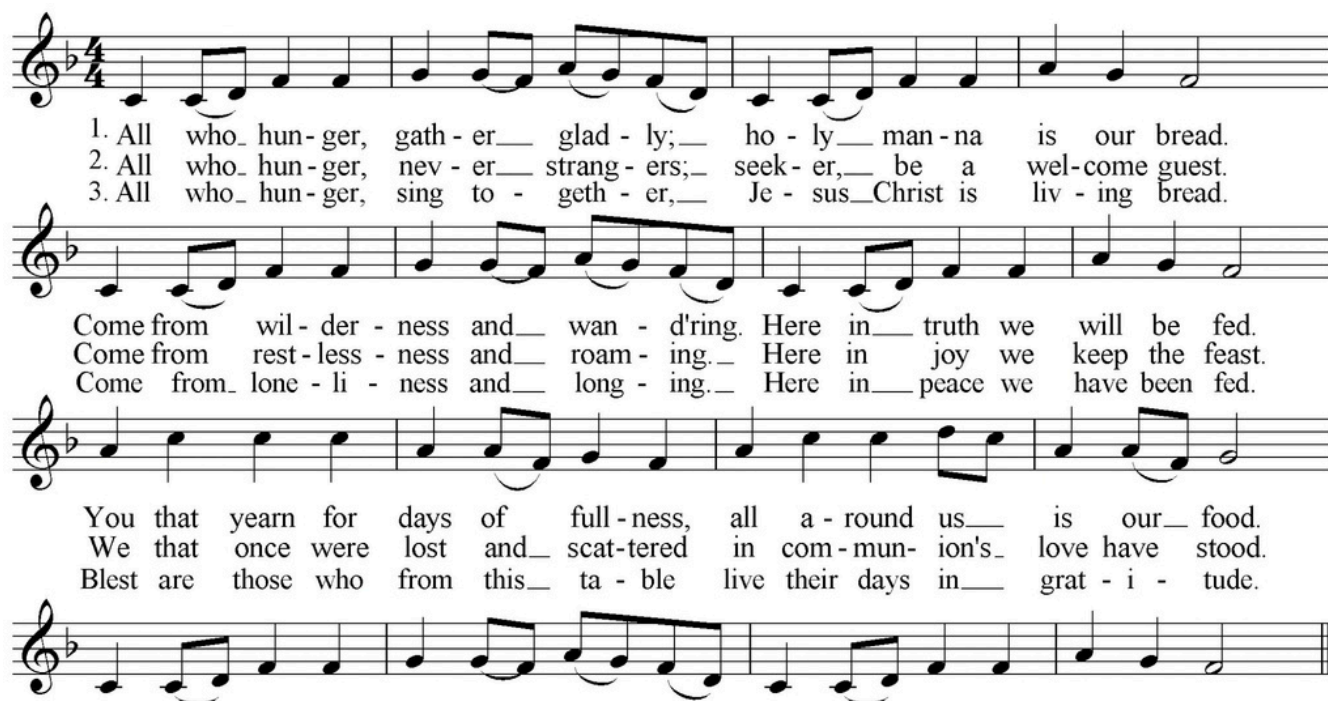
One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

All Who Hunger

HOLY MANNA



1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2. All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mun-ion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

SERMON

Holding Back the Sea

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer, passing the peace,
offering, and monthly communion.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Tim Dalton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

arr. Moses Hogan

*In the Lord, in the Lord. My soul's been anchored in the
Lord.*

*Before I stay in hell one day, my soul's been anchored in
the Lord.*

*I'd sing and pray myself away. My soul's been anchored in
the Lord.*

*Goin' shout and pray and never stop, my soul's been
anchored in the Lord.*

*Until I reach the mountain top, my soul's been anchored in
the Lord.*

*Do you love Him? Oh yes!
Do you love Him? Hallelujah!
God almighty.*

*Are you anchored? Oh yes!
Yes, I'm anchored, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.*

*Yes, will you serve Him? Oh yes!
Will you serve Him? Hallelujah!
God almighty.*

Yes, I'm anchored, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

*Will you praise Him? Oh yes!
Will you praise Him? Hallelujah!
God almighty.*

*Lord, I'm anchored.
Lord, I love you,
Yes, I'll serve You.
Lord, I praise You.*

My soul's been anchored in the Lord.

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 Riverside's communications ministry. We all encounter God differently as we continue to find new digital ways to connect with God and with one another through Zoom calls, podcasts, videos, and social media. Riverside's communications ministry connects with over 25,000 people across the country and around the world.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

standing as able

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

COME TO THE FEAST

Appalachian Spring (*excerpt*)

Omega Dance Company
Aaron Copland

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

Following each petition, join in the following response:

One: God, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

PRAYER LIST

Yvonne Allen	Juanita Merritt
Kathia Almeida	Nancy Mosley
Mace Anderson	Joyce Norris
Dr. Colleen Birchett	Dolores O'Connor
Jewel Bletcher	Nickie Palmer
Caed Brawner	Megan Pell
Loring Bush	Celena Pena's Grandmother
Valda Campbell	Janice and Aunt Joy
Linda Chu	Karen Prato
Jim Dager and John Souza	Sandra Ramos
Kara Dago-Clark	Joan Ricketts
Lourdes Davila-Rojas	Ann Rocker
Morrell Dooley and family	Danielle Scott
Leslie Forshey	Alexander Simmons
Jason Garcia	Angela Sosa
Karissa Garner & her son,	Shirley Sutherland
Isaac Cooke & mother,	George Theodore
Maria Garner	Ronald Townsend
Bernard George	Libby Turnock
Sharan Harper	Janet Wise Thomas
John Hartley	
David Hemans	We mourn with:
Winston Huang	
Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin and son, Caycen Chaplin	The family of Margaret Madden in her recent death.
Giau Huynh	
Tom Jarosz	We continue to grieve with:
George Johnson	
Lee Kopf	The family of Franklin Pegram in the death of his sister, Mary Pegram.
Jordan Konicki	
Lisa Kremer	Annie Meredith, Dahlia Rivadeneyra, and family in the death of their father and Papa, Mark Meredith.
Orlando Lagforega	
Gavin Landry	
Carol Lee	
Nivia Maldonaldo	
Ayana Mathis, Christina Cooke, and the child they were fostering	The family of Nick Singletary in the passing of his uncle, Leon Singletary.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

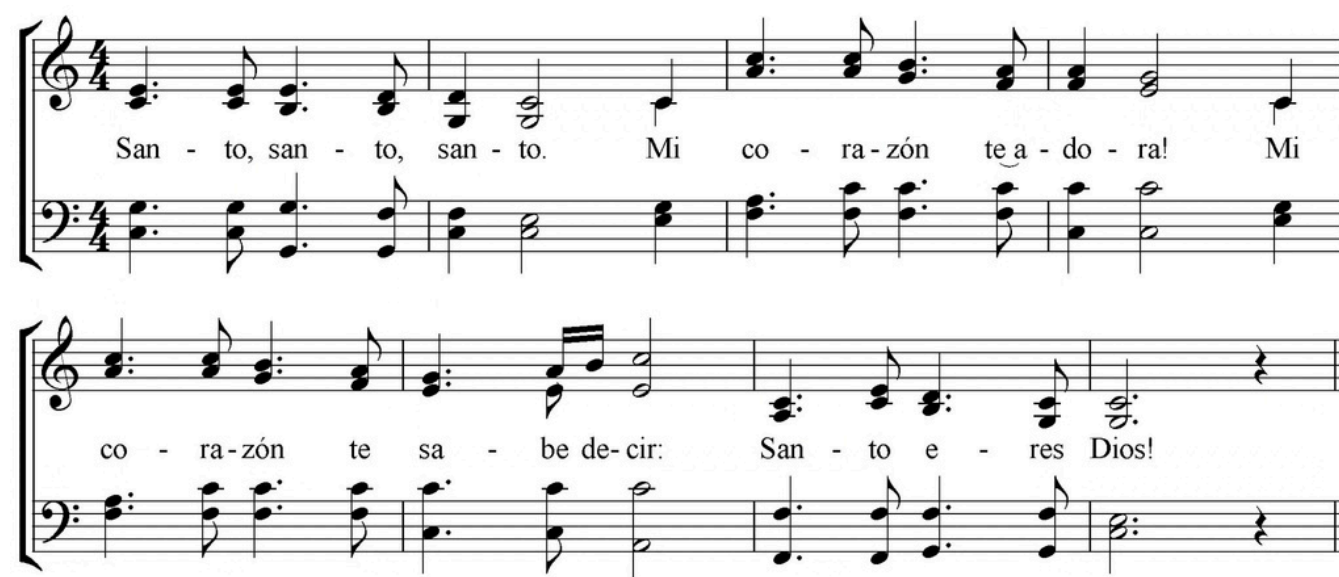
One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

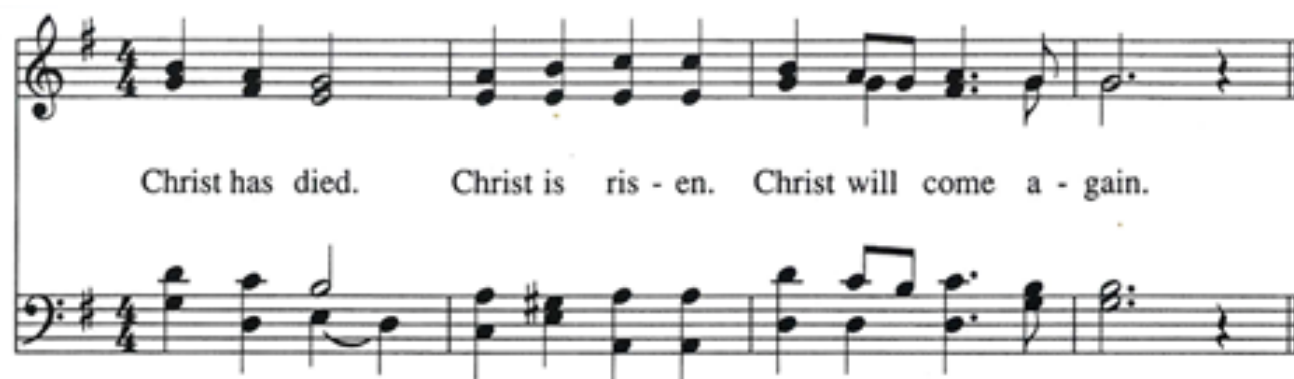
SANCTUS



San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Dios!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!

For everyone **worshipping online**, visit trcnyc.org/communion to take communion together on Zoom.

For everyone **worshipping in the nave**, take a cracker and dip it into the juice. There is also the option of an all-in-one pre-packaged bread and juice.

If you would like to **receive a blessing**, please place your arms across your chest. If you would like to receive **communion in your pew**, please indicate this to an usher.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Min. Kathy Lin

All: Compassionate God, You have met us in the bread and cup at Your table. As we go from this place may we receive strength to walk with all Your children in peace, and witness to the truth of Your reconciliation and love. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 515

Now to Your Table Spread

LOVE UNKNOWN

BENEDICTION

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE

Carillon, from "7 Pieces," Op. 27

Marcel Dupré

Stephen Tharp, *organist*

COVER ART DETAILS

This painting by the renowned Russian-Armenian marine artist, Aivazovsky, reveals a breathtaking scene marked by a stark contrast between the tumultuous, darkened skies and the calm water that Moses and the Israelites pass through. The left side of the painting is dominated by the chaotic, stormy sea with Pharaoh's soldiers struggling amidst the waters. The right side of the artwork portrays Moses leading the people with an outstretched arm, expressing a mix of determination and divine intervention.

OMEGA DANCE COMPANY

Founder: Carla DeSola

Co-directors: Martha Chapman, Rebecca Reuter

Associate Directors: Vanity David, Maura Burns

Rehearsal Director: Martha Chapman

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

Processional Hymn: “Oh For A World”

Choreography: Vanity David

“Come To The Feast”

Choreography: Carla DeSola

Staged by: Martha Chapman

Recessional Hymn: “Now To Your Table Spread”

Choreography: Rebecca Reuter

Staged by: Vanity David

“Come To The Feast”

Choreography: Carla DeSola

Staged by: Martha Chapman

Dancers:

Vanity David

Maggie Gavin

Vive Khamsingsavath

Maki Kitahara

Aliyah Miller

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.

*Omega
Dance Company*

AN INVITATION FROM THE WORSHIP COMMISSION

Beloved Riverside community,

As part of our ongoing commitment to Creation Justice, the Worship Commission is inviting our congregation to take a meaningful step together: reducing our reliance on paper worship bulletins.

For generations, Riverside has been a community that listens for God's call in the world and responds with courage. Today, that call includes caring for creation in ways both large and small. One of the simplest and most impactful changes we can make is to reduce the thousands of sheets of paper we print each year for Sunday worship.

We know this will be a significant shift, especially for a congregation where the majority is over 65 and have long relied on printed bulletins. We want to honor that reality with tenderness and patience. Bulletins will continue to be available for those who need them, including our visually impaired members and anyone for whom a printed bulletin is essential for full participation in worship.

However, for those who are able, we are asking you to join us in trying something new. Our screens, our livestream, and our digital bulletin will carry everything you need to follow the worship service. By choosing to use these tools, you help Riverside live more fully into our commitment to justice for the earth and all God's creation.

This is not about taking something away but about moving together, at a thoughtful pace, toward a practice that reflects our values. We trust that, with grace and patience, we can make this communal transition together with a complete transition occurring by April 2027.

Thank you for walking this path with us.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES DURING BULLETIN CHANGE

- Honor accessibility — printed bulletins always available for visually impaired and anyone who truly needs one.
 - Honor dignity — no shaming, no policing, no testing.
 - Honor pace — change happens slowly.
- Honor justice — we will keep our creation-justice framing front and center.

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Breakfast (<i>available for purchase</i>)	South Hall	8:30 AM
Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
Discovering The Bible	320 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Blessing of the Animals	Garth Garden	9:00 AM
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Youth Confirmation Class and Experience	8T	9:30 AM
Biblical Hebrew - Beginners	314 MLK	9:30 AM
Parent Connect	321 MLK	10:00 AM
Grace Space Nursery	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 AM
Rising Voices & Youth Choir	MLK 3 Chapel of The Cross	10:00 AM
Sunday Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	After Service
Practicing Sabbath	South Hall	12:30 PM
New Member Class Fall 2026	20T	1:00 PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Mental Health Listening Circle	9T	1:30 PM
Biblical Hebrew - Advanced	314 MLK	1:30 PM
Social Services Committee Meeting	Online	2:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	Online	11:00 AM
Beyond Sunday Experience: Worship	Nave	6:00 PM
Sharing Fund Committee Meeting	Online	6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Corbin Hill	Cloister Lobby	11:00 AM
Church School Teachers Meeting	Online	7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM
Midweek Bible Study	Online	12:30 PM
Biblical Hebrew – Advanced Beginners	Online	5:00 PM
Space for Grace	9T & Online	6:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	10T	11:00 AM
Tower League Luncheon	Assembly Hall	12:00 AM
Short Circles: “The Spiritual Practice of Remembrance” with Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler	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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Morning Prayer	Online	11:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Palestine Circle Event: Candlelight Re-membrance: Lost Children of Palestine and Israel	Christ Chapel	2:00 PM
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COMING SOON

Mayoral Accountability Action	Sunday, October 11	12:45 PM
African Fellowship & LatinX Dance Program	Sunday, October 11	1:30 PM
Christian Sands Jazz Concert	Friday, October 16	7:00 PM
The Riverside Community Strings Concert	Sunday, October 18	3:00 PM
Children's Sabbath Intergenerational Art Workshop	Sunday, October 18	1:30 PM
The Riverside Strings and Bridgemusik Concert	Sunday, October 18	3:00 PM
Riverside Turkey Trot 5K	Saturday, November 7	9:00 AM

SERVICE PROGRAM FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The 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.

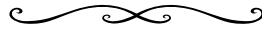
SPOP

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)



Min. Kathy Lin
Associate Director of Education
and Faith Formation
(Youth and Young Adults)



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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