THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 25, 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:

"And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, April 3, 1968

A question for reflection:

How am I creating the world I would like to see?

Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more

Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035

Cover Art: Season of Origins Art by Rev. Brooke Hilliard

ASL Interpreter

Avery Gordon & 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

All Things Bright and Beautiful (Royal Oak) — arr. Sally Slade W arner
Slane (Be Thou My Vision) — Irish Ballad Melody, arr. W endell Westcott
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less — William B. Bradbury, arr. Richard Giszczak

Carla Staffaroni, *carillonneur*

HANDBELLS

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him! — arr. Fred Gramann
Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho — arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, *director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

INTROIT

Surely the Lord is in This Place — arr. Herbert Colvin

Surely the Lord, the Lord is in this place.
This is none other than the house of God.
And this is the gate of Heaven.
Surely the Lord, the Lord is in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able — Laila Sene

One: Today we remember how God helped people bring change and renew the church.

All: **God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

One: Long ago, God called people to be brave and speak up. God is still calling us today.

All: **Reform us again, O God. Renew your church and help us care for the world.**

One: Move among us now; breathe new life into your church.

All: **Let us worship the God who makes all things new. To God alone be the glory.**

INVOCATION

standing as able

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 422 *remain standing*

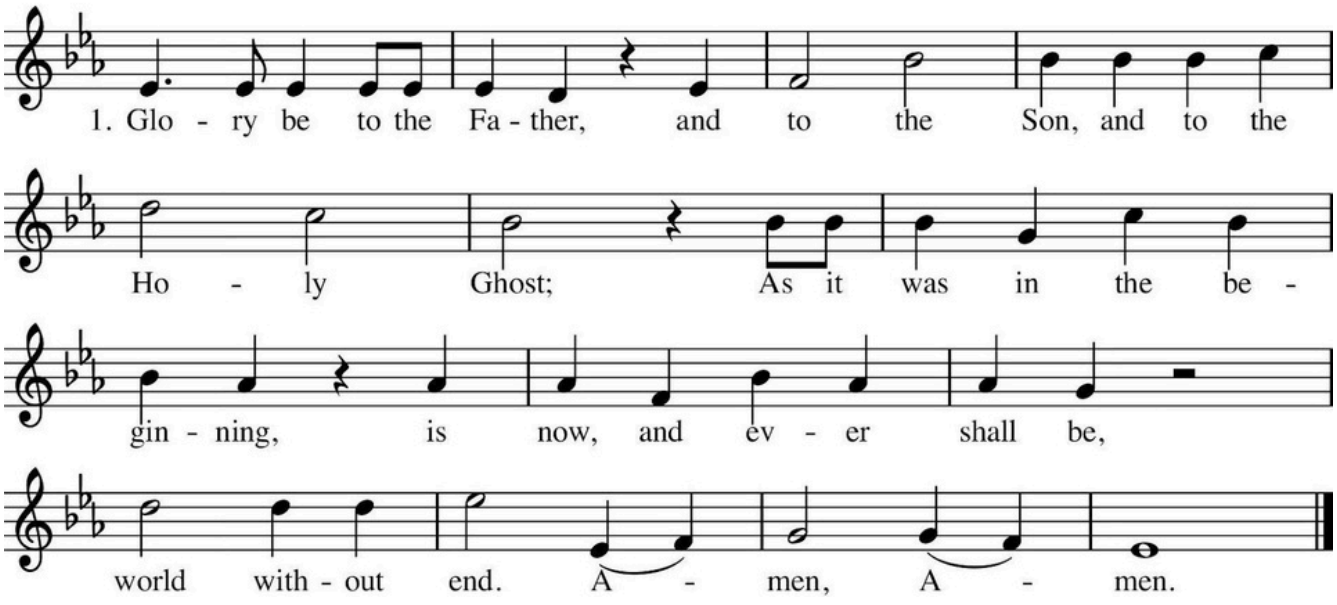
The Church's One Foundation AURELIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Min. Kathy Lin

In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GLORIA PATRI



INTRODUCING OUR GUEST PREACHER

Dr. Kate Common



Dr. Kate Common is an Assistant Professor of Public and Practical Theology at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and the author of two books, Undoing Conquest: Ancient Israel, the Bible, and the Future of Christianity (Orbis Books, 2024), and Four Marks of the Feminist Church: Constructing Church for Everybody (preorder Orbis Books, 2027). Kate teaches courses in feminist and queer theology, the Bible, practical theology, design thinking, and leadership.

They created the Season of Origins and direct the Season of Origins Design Project. Kate also serves as the Theologian-in-Residence at St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, MA. Learn more about Kate here: katecommon.com

Season of Origins conceived by Dr. Kate Common



LISTENING

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

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

TBD

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 *(Pew Bible page 191)*

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Kwesi McDavid

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 *(Pew Bible page 106)*

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Amen Igbinosun

Matthew 22:34-40 *(Pew Bible page 25)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

ANTHEM

Greater Love Hath No Man — John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.
Love is strong as death.
Greater love hath no one than this,
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
Who His own self bare our sins in His own Body
on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto
righteousness.
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus;
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a
holy nation,
that ye should shew forth the praises
of Him who hath called you out of darkness,
into his marvellous light.
I beseech you, Christians, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

SERMON — Creating the Promised Land — Dr. Kate Common

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Tim Dalton and Valerie Henning-Piedmonte

Esther Arias	*Bendu Kaba*
Brian Belluzzi	*Gina Miele*
Ruth Brooks	*Djeneba N'Dao*
Kalifa Dembele	*Trustline Osuji*
Hurdley Freemantle	*Shivani Singh*

We welcome you with joy and friendship into the common life of
The Riverside Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue
to grow together in God's love and grace and be witnesses of our risen Savior.



PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

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
Kathia Almeida
Mace Anderson
Dr. Colleen Birchett
Valda Campbell
Linda Chu
Kara Dago-Clark
Lourdes Davila-Rojas
Morrell Dooley and family
Darryl Eatmon
Leslie Forshey
Jason Garcia
Karissa Garner & her son,
Isaac Cooke & mother,
Maria Garner
Bernard George
Sharan Harper
John Hartley
David Hemans
Winston Huang
Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin
and son, Caycen Chaplin
Tom Jarosz
George Johnson
Lisa Kremer
Orlando Lagforega
Gavin Landry
Bertha Lewis
Ayana Mathis, Christina
Cooke, and the child they
were fostering
Juanita Merritt
Dana Minaya
Nancy Mosley
Joyce Norris
Nickie Palmer
Megan Pell
Celena Pena's Grandmother
Janice and Aunt Joy
Sandra Ramos
Joan Ricketts
Ann Rocker
Alexander Simmons
Isabella Soto
Shirley Sutherland
George Theodore
Ronald Townsend
Libby Turnock
Janet Wise Thomas

We mourn with:

The family of Angela Sosa in her passing.

John Souza and family in the death of his partner, Jim Dager.

We continue to grieve with:

Diana Jackson-Robinson and family in the death of her brother, Freddie Jackson.

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

Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord — Undine Smith Moore

Oh, the King cried, "Oh! Daniel, Daniel, oh!"
A-that Hebrew Daniel, Servant of the Lord!"

Among the Hebrew nation. One Hebrew, Daniel was found.
They put him in a-the lion's den.
He stayed there all night long.

Now the king in his sleep was troubled,
And early in the morning he rose,
To find God had sent his angel down
To lock the lion's jaws!

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 Open Bible Study, where seekers gather to discover how God, through biblical principles, can transform and liberate individuals, families, communities and, ultimately, 21st century societies.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 260 *remain standing*

A Mighty Fortress EIN' FESTE BURG

BENEDICTION *remain standing* Dr. Kate Common

POSTLUDE

Overture from Music for the Royal Fireworks George F. Handel
Transcription by Stephen Tharp

Stephen Tharp, *organist*

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

A QUICK VOTER CHECKLIST



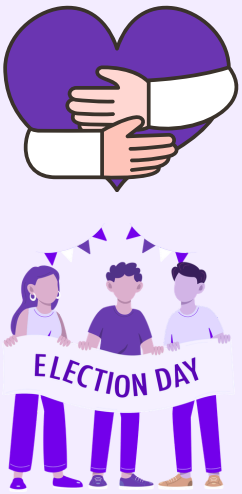
BEFORE ELECTION DAY

- ☐ Check your voter registration: voterlookup.elections.ny.org
- ☐ 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!

Justice is Love in Action
trcnyc.org/knowyourrights

YOUR VOTE HAS POWER




THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HARVESTFEST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
12 PM - 3 PM | CLAREMONT LOBBY
Enjoy a Halloween adventure at Riverside with a spooky tour, trick-or-treating, hot dogs, crafts, and fun activities with neighbors and friends!

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Breakfast (*available for purchase*)	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
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Biblical Hebrew - Beginners	314 MLK	9:30 AM
Youth Confirmation Class and Experience	8T	9:30 AM
Rising Voices and Youth Choir	Chapel Of The Cross	10:00 AM
Grace Space Nursery	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 AM
Sunday Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Youth Group Sunday Church School	8T	11:30 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Bs and Ps Bake Sale	South Hall Lobby	12:30PM
Ecclesia Ministry	Assembly Hall Kitchen	12:45 PM
Special Congregational Meeting	South Hall & Online	1:00 PM
Childcare	313 MLK	1:00 PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Biblical Hebrew - Advanced	314 MLK	1:30 PM
Tower League MSM Musical	The Riverside Theater	2:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Men's Professional Attire Drive	Drop Off Donations at Security Desk	9:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	Online	11:00 AM
Church Council Meeting	Online	6:30 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Corbin Hill	Cloister Lobby	11:00 AM
Anti-Racism Task Force	Online	6:30 PM
The Phantom Returns: A Silent Film Organ Spectacular *(Ticketed Event)*	Nave & Online	7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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
Dinner Church	9T Library, 9T Kitchen	5:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Programming	Online	1:30 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM

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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Harvest Festival	Nave	12:00 PM

COMING SOON

Light Eternal: Duruflé's Requiem for All Saints' Day	Sunday, November 1	3:00 PM
Beyond Sunday: Misson & Social Justice Focus	Monday, November 2	6:00 PM
Riverside Turkey Trot 5K	Saturday, November 7	9:00 AM
Men's Class – "Challenges and Trials of Being Young Black Men"	Sunday, November 8	1:00 PM
Writing Workshop-The Psalm: A Poetic Reexamination	Sunday, November 8	1:30 PM

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.

CONNECT WITH US

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. Anthony Tang
Executive Minister



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