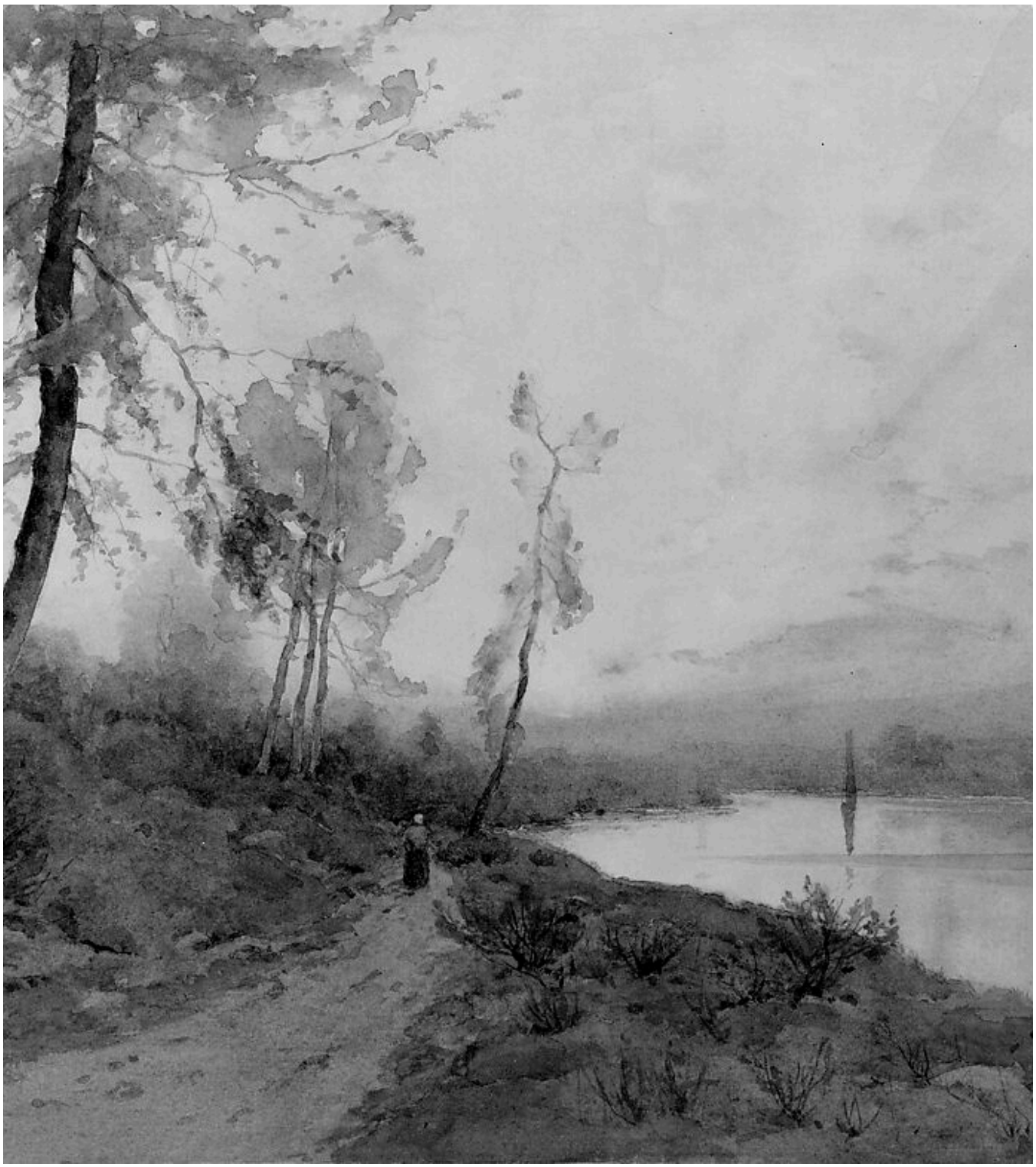
THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 15, 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:

"To make a revolution, people must not only struggle against existing institutions. They must make a philosophical/ spiritual leap and become more 'human' human beings. In order to change/ transform the world, they must change/ transform themselves."

-Grace Lee Boggs

A question for reflection:

What is one thing God might be asking me to change?

Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more

Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035

Cover Art: Woman Walking beside a River (1902) by Henry Farrer

(For cover art details please visit page 11)

ASL Interpreter

Canara 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

Dithyrambe, Branle en Double — Werner Van Cleemput
Fantasy on King's Weston — Milford Myhre

Cao Linh Pham, guest *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Retrospection — Florence Price
Fugue in D minor, BWV 565 — J. S. Bach

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY — Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

INTROIT

God Is Seen — Arr. Alice Parker

Through all the world below God is seen all around,
Search hills and valleys through, there he's found.
The growing of the corn, the lily, and the thorn, the pleasant and forlorn,
All declare, God is there, In meadows drest in green, God is seen.

See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run,
The mist that veils the sky hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour; the ocean, it doth roar and beat upon the shore,
And all praise the God who ne'er declines His designs.

The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies
The comet in her blaze 'God', she cries;
The shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears, His awful name declares;
see them fly through the sky, and join the solemn sound all around.

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able — Laith King

One: Who may dwell in your presence, O God, and stand upon your holy hill?

All: **Those who walk in truth and seek to do your will.**

One: Those who speak with honesty, whose words bring healing and peace.

All: **Those who honor their neighbors and let injustice cease.**

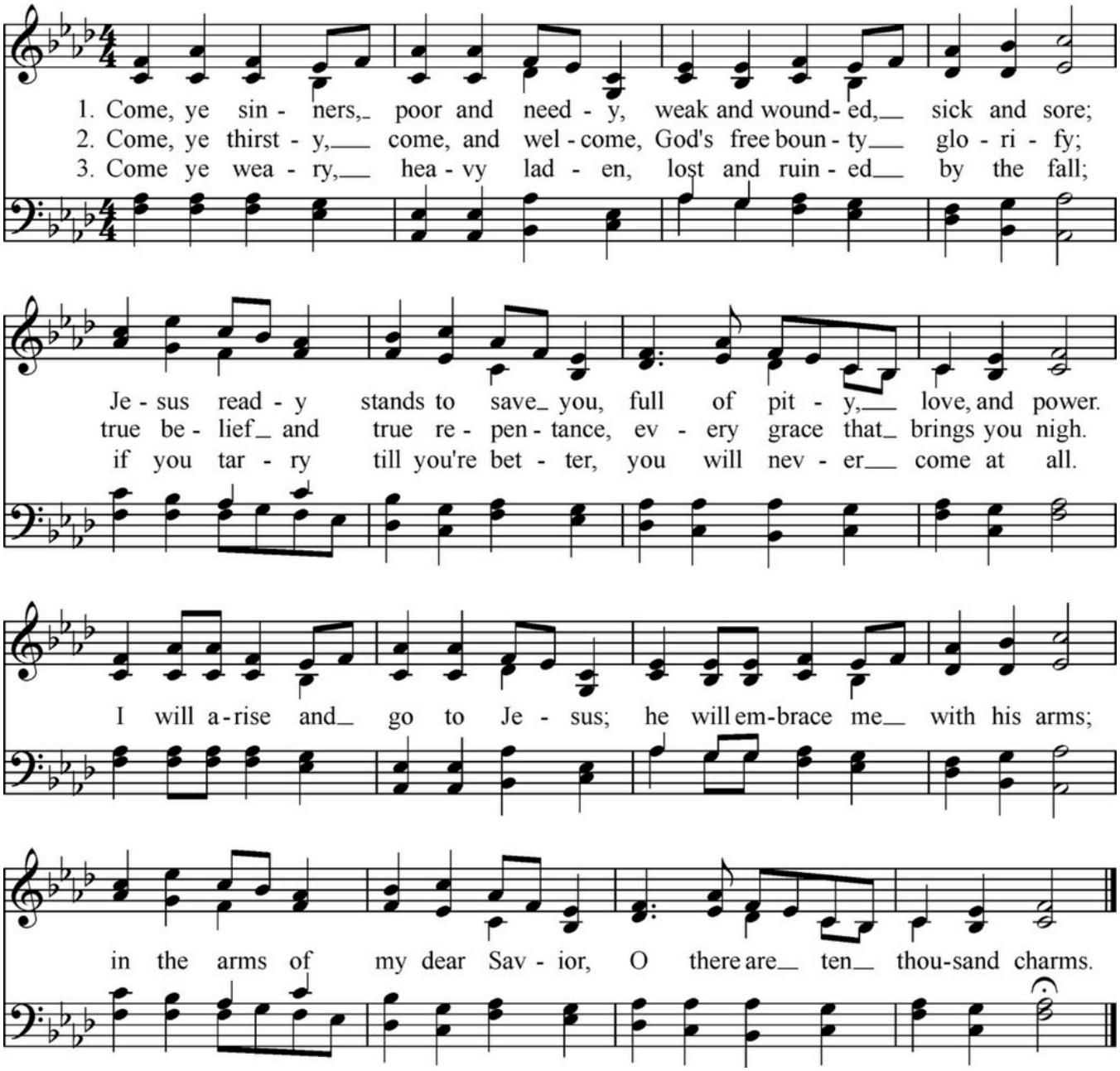
One: O God, shape our lives in the ways of your love.

All: **Let us worship the One whose truth and mercy lead us above.**

INVOCATION *standing as able*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *remain standing*

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy RESTORATION



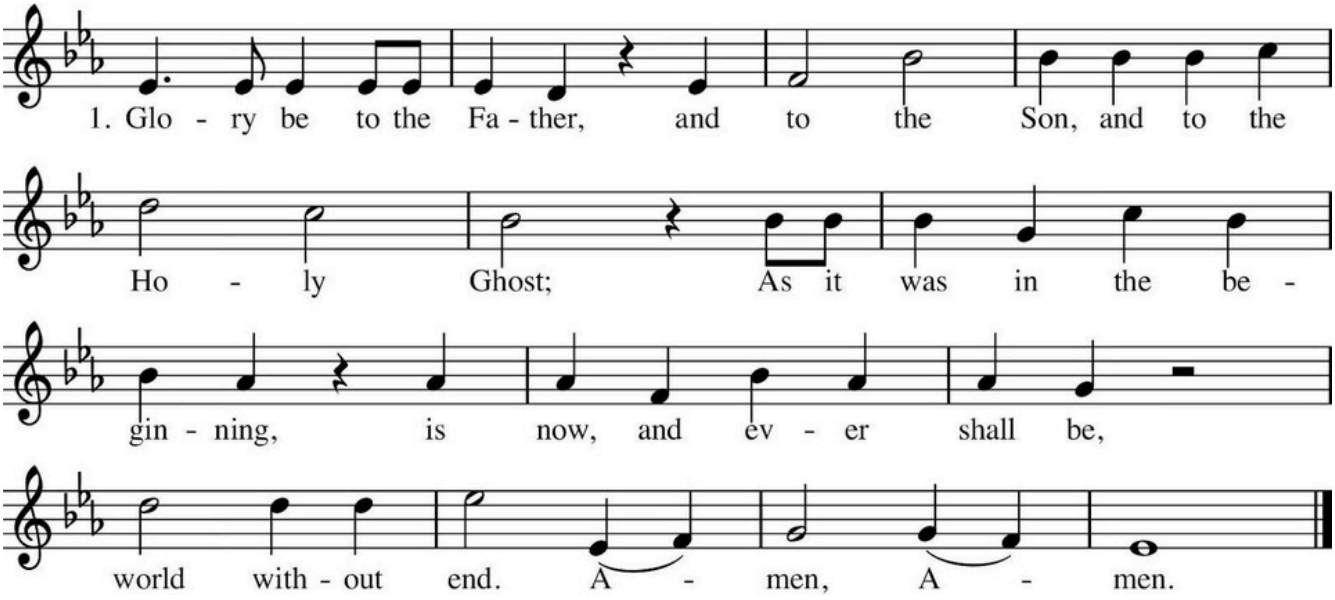
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Anthony J. Tang

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GLORIA PATRI



LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Laith King

Matthew 9:13 *(Pew Bible page 9)*

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

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Danielle Hartley

Micah 1:3-5, 5:2-5a, 6:6-8 *(Pew Bible page 861)*

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

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Dr. Jillian Langford

ANTHEM

Walk With Me — arr. Leon C. Roberts

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living, yes! In the presence of the Lord.
I want Jesus to walk with me, I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
Walk with me, Lord, walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey, walk with me, Lord, walk with me.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living, yes! In the presence of the Lord.

The Inspirational Choir
Nedra Old-Neal, *director*
Matt King, *piano*
Erika Nicole Johnson, *soprano*

SERMON Start With Me Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Adriene Thorne

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
Dr. Colleen Birchett
Valda Campbell
Linda Chu
Lourdes Davila-Rojas
Morrell Dooley and family
Leslie Forshey
Jason Garcia
Karissa Garner & her son,
Isaac Cooke & mother,
Maria Garner
Bernard George
Sharan Harper
David Hemans
Winston Huang
Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin
and son, Caycen Chaplin
Tom Jarosz
Debra Jenkins
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
Karen Mott
Joyce Norris
Dolores O'Connor
Nickie Palmer
Megan Pell
Celena Pena's Grandmother
Janice and Aunt Joy
Sandra Ramos
Joan Ricketts
Ann Rocker
Isabella Soto
Shirley Sutherland
Lady T
George Theodore
Ronald Townsend
Libby Turnock
Henry Williams
Janet Wise Thomas

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. Charlene A. Wingate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me — Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you forever — e'en the Spirit of Truth.
And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

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. Tim Dalton

Today we celebrate the work of our Clothing Distribution program, which continues to offer free casual and professional attire to those in economic and social crisis year-round.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 416 *remain standing*
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation WESTMINSTER ABBEY

BENEDICTION *remain standing* Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

POSTLUDE
Improvisation Stephen Tharp

Stephen Tharp, *organist*

COVER ART DETAILS

The watercolor and graphite painting shows a woman walking alone beside a river, her figure rendered with gentle, naturalistic detail. The composition emphasizes the tranquility of the landscape, with the river's surface and surrounding environment providing a serene backdrop.

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

WINTER COAT DRIVE

NOVEMBER 6– DECEMBER 6, 2026

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED EVERY DAY FROM 9AM–12PM

NO DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON HOLIDAYS WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED.

WE ARE REQUESTING
NEW AND GENTLE USED COATS



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
91 CLAREMONT AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10027

SCAN TO VIEW OUR AMAZON WISHLIST

For more Information please contact us at MSJ@trcnyc.org







The Riverside Church Food Pantry

HOLIDAY WISHLIST

Help make the season brighter for children and teens in our Food Pantry families!

AGES 0–2
Babies & Toddlers

- Musical Learning Toys
- Push-and-Ride Toys
- Large Building Blocks
- Toy Vehicles
- Winter Outfits

AGES 3–5
Preschoolers

- Dolls and accessories
- Toy Cars and Tracks
- Pretend-Play Sets
- LEGO DUPLO
- Art Supplies
- Character Backpacks

AGES 6–9
Elementary

- Remote-control cars
- Craft Kits
- Sports Balls
- Scooters and Helmets
- Kid's Headphones

AGES 10–12
Tweens

- Wireless Headphones
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Hoodies
- Gift Cards
- Sports Gear
- Art Sets

AGES 13–15
Young Teens

- Earbuds
- Backpacks
- Crossbody Bags
- Sneakers
- Self-care Sets
- Gaming Accessories
- LED room Lights
- Gift Cards

AGES 16–18
Older Teens

- Hoodies and Sneakers
- Headphones
- Portable Chargers
- Backpacks
- Grooming Sets
- Gift Cards

The Riverside Church 2026 Holiday Gift Drive

November 2 – December 13, 2026

Help Us Make Holiday Wishes Come True!

Do you remember the excitement of creating a holiday wish list as a child, hoping to receive that one special gift you had been dreaming of? This holiday season, we invite you to help bring that same joy and excitement to children and families in our community.

The Riverside Church's Social Services Ministry is pleased to launch its **2026 Holiday Gift Drive**, an opportunity to spread kindness, generosity, and holiday cheer.

This year, we surveyed our Food Pantry guests to better understand their children's needs, interests, and wishes. Their responses helped shape a thoughtful Holiday Gift Wish List that reflects the voices and desires of the families we serve.

This initiative is an invitation to listen to our community, honor their wishes, and respond with generosity. By selecting a gift from our Wish List, you can help make a child's holiday wish come true while reminding families that their voices matter and their community cares.

We encourage gifts valued between **$25** and **$50** per child, making it possible for everyone to participate in a meaningful way.

Let's turn wishes into joyful moments and make this holiday season brighter for the children and families of our community.

Give generously. Share the joy. Make a holiday wish come true!



TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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
Cherub Choir	721 MLK	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
Virtual Coffee	Online	After Service
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Bs and Ps Bake Sale	South Hall Lobby	12:30PM
Informal Congregational Meeting	South Hall & Online	1:00 PM
Childcare for congregational Meeting	313 MLK	1:00 PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Men's Class	Multipurpose Room	1:30 PM
Biblical Hebrew - Advanced	314 MLK	1:30 PM
Battle of The Organs *(Ticketed Event)*	Nave	3:00 PM
Maranatha: VISIONS Ballet Reception	9T	5:00 PM
Writing Workshop – The Psalms: A Poetic Reexamination	Online	7:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Holiday Gift Drive	Drop Off Donations at Security Desk	9:00 AM
Winter Coat 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
Compassion Circle	10T	6:00 PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Blessed Are Those Who Mourn	Online	6:00 PM
Building Committee Meeting	Online	7:00 PM
Organ Recital by Philippe Lefebvre *(Ticketed Event)*	Nave & Online	7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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, NOVEMBER 19

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
Stewardship Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM
Budget & Planning Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM
Short Circles: "Stories from my Mother's Garden" with Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner	Online	7:00 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Youth Gym Night	Stone Gym	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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Theatre of the Oppressed	Multipurpose Room	1:00 PM
Palestine Circle: Apartheid-Free Pledge Focus	411 MLK	1:00 PM

COMING SOON

Thanksgiving Day Service	Thursday, November 26	11:00 AM
Thanksgiving Day Brunch	Thursday, November 26	12:00 PM
AdventFest	Sunday, November 29	1:00 PM
Hope and Consolation Service	Sunday, December 6	2:00 PM
Business and Professional Women's Club Christmas Tea	Sunday, December 13	1:00 PM
Candlelight Carol Festival	Sunday, December 13	4:00 PM
Compassion Circle	Monday, December 14	6:00 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
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212.870.6700 - trcnyc.org