

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 10, 2020  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.

As you prepare yourself for Worship, we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

“What do the Christmas story and the Apocalypse (aka the Book of Revelation) have in common? Let us listen for God’s Word to us.”

-Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Eastertide, a period of 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ until Pentecost. The liturgical color of Eastertide is white, which symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death, as signified by the paraments and clergy stoles.

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## GATHERING

*We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God*

### CARILLON

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

*arr. Betty Buchanan*

*Charles, Semowich, Carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Aria

*Gaston-Marie Dethier*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, in Your Spirit on this glorious day, we gather safely from our homes. Connecting in community through our screens, phones, and radios we open our hearts to the hope that does not disappoint. Allow Your Spirit to dwell with us during this time of worship together from our separate places. Through Your grace and love unify our community as we welcome You into this space.

### OPENING HYMN 479<sup>1</sup>

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven<sup>1</sup>

*Lauda Anima*

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,  
Glad of heart your carols raise;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor  
Shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing our Maker's faithfulness.

Like a loving parent caring,  
God knows well our feeble frame;  
Gladly all our burdens bearing,  
Still to countless years the same.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration,  
You behold God face to face;  
Sun and moon and all creation,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

## INVOCATION

Rev. Debra Northern

### LISTENING

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

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Revelation 1:9-20

*(page 245 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL LESSON

Danielle Hartley

Luke 2:7-11

*(page 58 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount

Not Alone

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Livingston

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

### RESPONDING

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Pray in the language or version of your heart.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Harper

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Northern

### OFFERTORY SOLO

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

*Nancy Wertsch*

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I am the way, the truth, and the light.

*Eric Lindsey, bass*

### THE DOXOLOGY

**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 & DEDICATION

Rev. Northern

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Matthew 5:4 Grief Support Group, which offers a safe, caring community for those grieving the loss of a spouse or partner.*

### CLOSING HYMN 467

**How Great Thou Art<sup>2</sup>**

*O Store Gud*

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hand have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Refrain:**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!**

**Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! [Refrain]**

### SENDING

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

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

### POSTLUDE

Toccata Giocosa

*Ian Hunt*

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Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>Lyric reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132

<sup>2</sup>Lyric reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132

*Special thanks to our congregational leader: Danielle Hartley*



**Rev. Brian K. Blount** is the president and professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and Charlotte, NC. He was called to this position in 2007, after serving for 15 years as the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary. An M.Div. graduate of Princeton Seminary in 1981, he obtained his B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1978. After graduating from

Princeton Seminary, he went on to become the pastor of the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA, from 1982-1988. He was William and Mary's first African-American to receive membership in the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Emory University in 1992 and returned to teach at Princeton Seminary the same year. The author of six books, his primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics. He preaches and directs adult education classes in local congregations. He and his wife Sharon have two children, Joshua and Kaylin.

## **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. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder, add us to your “safe sender list,” or visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/Email\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/Email) to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

## **LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/Events\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/Events) for more information and to download a copy.

## **WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG**

If you need more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship) to watch the Sunday morning Livestream, videos of the sermon and the choirs, and more. Be sure to watch The Word Made Fresh, our weekly video Bible Study, and catch up on Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast.

## CONNECT WITH US.

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Interim Senior Minister

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### CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*

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