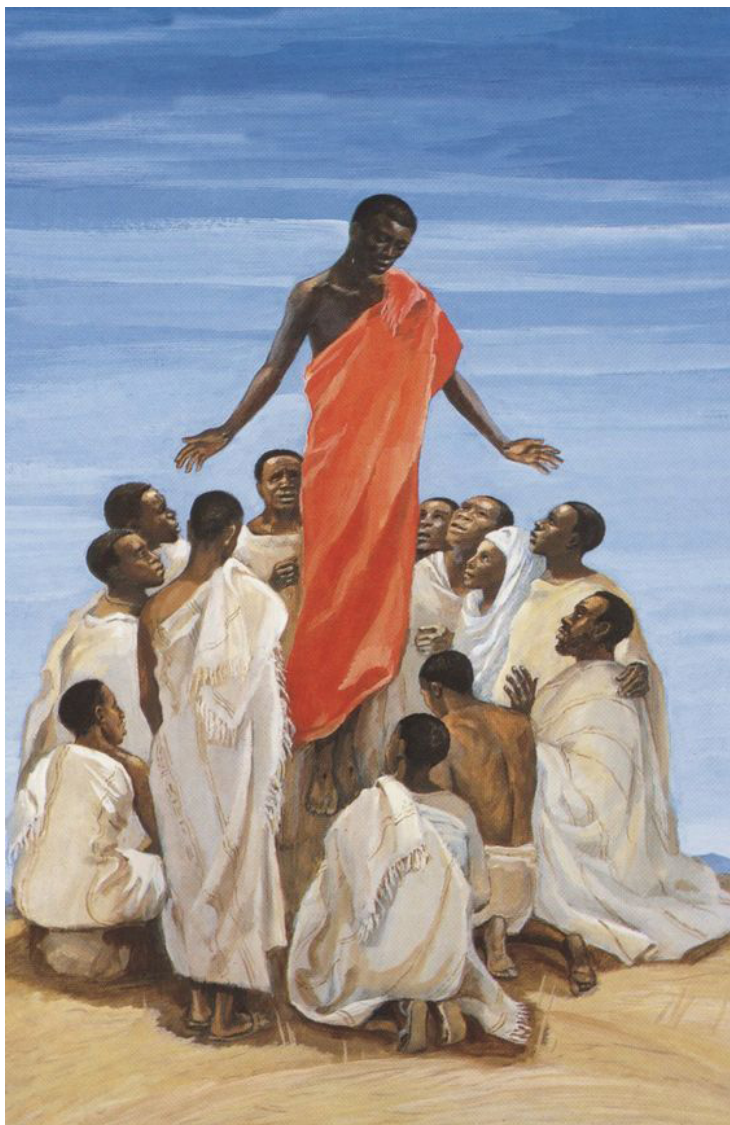


# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 24, 2020  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
ASCENSION SUNDAY

# 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:

“Let us not miss or dismiss this vital time between departure and arrival. Rather than worrying about ‘are we there yet?’, let us join together across physical distance in prayer and worship, trusting that the Spirit of the Living Christ is making us ready for a yet-unknown arrival of something new.”

-Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

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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.

**Bulletin Cover Image: *The Ascension (1973)*** JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

H Open Now the Gates of Beauty

*arr. Betty Buchanan*

*Charles, Semowich, Carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Prelude on Darwall's 148th

*Percy Whitlock*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Debra Northern

### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

One: Rise up dear God, be the light of this new day!

**All: Scatter all who thirst for hate away. By Your loving hand all evil shall perish.**

One: With Your help, we will lift up a song to You who rides upon the clouds.

**All: Through Your strength and grace we shall sing with exuberance and joy.**

One: The provider for our needs, the protector of all who feel weak,  
shine brightly in all of our homes as we worship today.

**All: Awesome is God in this virtual sanctuary. We welcome You in all of Your glorious power and strength. Blessed be to God!**

### OPENING HYMN 423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*Duke Street*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown His head;  
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen!

## INVOCATION

Rev. Jim Keat

### *LISTENING*

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

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Bruce Lamb & Hillary Puckett

**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.**

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hsien-Yu Wang

Acts 1:1-11

*(page 118 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL LESSON

Greg Muniz

Luke 24:44-53

*(page 91 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Between Departure and Arrival

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Northern

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

Hsien-Yu Wang

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Keat

## OFFERTORY SOLO

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand *arr. Margaret Bond/Matt King*  
He's got the whole world in his hand. He's got the woods and the waters in his hand.  
He's got the birds and the bees right in his hand. He's got the beasts of the field right  
in his hand. He's got you and me right in his hand.

*Linda Childs, soprano*

*Matt King, piano*

## 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

Hsien-Yu Wang

*Today we celebrate the work of the Stephen Ministry, which equips and empowers  
lay members to provide Christ-centered care to people in need of encouragement and  
support.*

## CLOSING HYMN 155

**Rejoice, the Lord Is King**

*Darwall's 148th*

**Rejoice, the Lord is King!**

**Your Lord and King adore!**

**Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,**

**And triumph evermore:**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!**

**Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**God's kingdom cannot fail,**

**Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;**

**The keys of death and hell**

**Are to our Jesus given:**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!**

**Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope!**

**For Christ the Judge shall come**

**To glorify the saints**

**For their eternal home:**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!**

**Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Harper

**POSTLUDE**

March in D

*Alexandre Guilmant*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leader: Greg Muniz*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Inspired by Psalm 68*

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



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