

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



AUGUST 23, 2020
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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:


“Not everything that is faced can be changed;
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

-James Baldwin,
“As Much Truth As One Can Bear,” New York Times Book Review

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

Bulletin Cover Image: *Jamie Sinclair*

 [@pressuregrafix](https://www.instagram.com/pressuregrafix)



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Ein feste Burg

arr. Betty Buchanan

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Allegro, from Trio Sonata in C Major (BWV 529)

J. S. Bach

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: Like the morning dew, God's mercy falls gently upon us.

All: How very good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.

One: God's mercy can soothe the pain of conflict and heal all wounds of discord.

All: How blessed we are to have the gift of God's mercy.

One: God has ordained a great blessing. Life, forever more.

All: May God continue to bless us as we unite together in worship.

OPENING HYMN 443²

**O Christ, the Great Foundation
O Christ, the great foundation
On which your people stand
To preach Your true salvation
In every age and land:
Pour out Your Holy Spirit
To make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken
As long as worlds endure.**

Aurelia

**Baptized in one confession,
One church in all the earth,
We bear our Lord's impression,
The sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered
In love beyond our own,
By grace we were invited,
By grace we make You known.**

Where tyrants' hold is tightened,
Where strong devour the weak,
Where innocents are frightened,
The righteous fear to speak,
There let Your church awaking
Attack the powers of sin
And, all their ramparts breaking,
With You the victory win.

This is the moment glorious
When He who once was dead
Shall lead His church victorious,
Their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation
His heavenly kingdom brings,
The final consummation,
The glory of all things.

INVOCATION

Hsien-Yu Wang

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Josephine Clark

Matthew 15: 21-28

(pages 17 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Harper

Bearing the Truth

PASTORAL PRAYER

Amanda Meisenheimer

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

Carolyn Britton-Mitchell

OFFERTORY SOLO

My Soul Is Athirst For God, from "The Holy City"

Alfred Robert Gaul

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat, day and night, while they daily say unto me, "Where is now thy God?" Oh, bring me out of my trouble.

Liz Lang, soprano

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

Amanda Meisenheimer

Today we celebrate the ministry of Riverside's Tower League, a supportive, caring community of older adults that promotes the wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit as we age.

CLOSING HYMN 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's choosing: Dost
ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth: Let
goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Harper

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C (BWV 564)

J. S. Bach

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Josephine Clark & Carolyn Britton-Mitchell

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Inspired by Psalm 67 and Psalm 133*

²*Lyric reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132*

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



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