

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
SEVENTEENTH 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:


“A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth... and say ‘This is not just.’

–Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Time to Break Silence,”
Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967

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

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Meditation

Variations on "Nettleton"

Betty Jackson King

Undine Smith Moore

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Omnipotent One, we welcome Your wisdom in mind and spirit.

All: Teach us to recognize when we waste our true gifts from God.

One: Provide us the insight needed to learn from our hearing.

All: Let us take time to be still with God.

One: May our time together in God's presence embolden our faith.

All: Fill us with the courage to be persistent in our outcry so that God's justice will bring forth good change. Let us worship in God's name.

OPENING HYMN 452

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

St. Michael

O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set thy judgments on the earth.

INVOCATION

Amanda Meisenheimer

LISTENING

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

SOLO

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round *Trad. Civil Rights Song*
Ain't gonna let nobody, Lordy, turn me 'round, turn me 'round, turn me 'round,
I'm gonna keep on a-walkin, keep on a-talkin', marching up to freedom land.
Ain't gonna let segregation turn me 'round...
Ain't gonna let injustice turn me 'round...
Ain't gonna let the hatred turn me 'round...

Irwin Reese, tenor

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amanda Meisenheimer

Matthew 26:6-13

(pg 29 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Hsien-Yu Wang

Luke 18:1-8

(pg 81 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Liz Theoharis

Our Theory of Change is Ending Poverty

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

Amanda Meisenheimer

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Livingston

OFFERTORY SOLO

God Will Take Care of You

Civilla and W. Stillman Martin

Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;

He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

Lean, weary one, upon His breast, God will take care of you.

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 ministry of the South Africa/Cuban Support Group, whose programs include educational travel to South Africa and support for truth and reconciliation, trauma care, hospitality, housing and microloans as well as partnering with IFCO/Pastors for Peace for the work they do in Cuba.

CLOSING HYMN 405

What Does the Lord Require

Sharptborne

What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?

What sacrifice desire,
or tribute bid you bring?

Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear!
Should you not justice show?
Will God your pleading hear,
while crime and cruelty grow?

Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.

Still down the ages ring
the prophet's stern commands.

To merchant, worker, king
he brings God's high demands.

Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.

How shall my soul fulfil
God's law so hard and high?

Let Christ endue our will
with grace to fortify.

Then justly, in mercy
we'll humbly walk with God

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Salutation on "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Alice Jordan



The Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis is Co-Chair of the [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II that organized the largest coordinated wave of nonviolent civil disobedience in 21st Century America and has since emerged as one of the nation's leading social movement forces. She is also the Director of the [Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice](#) at Union Theological Seminary.

Liz received her BA in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania; her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in 2004 where she was the first William Sloane Coffin Scholar; and her PhD from Union in New Testament and Christian Origins. She has been published in the *NY Times*, *Time Magazine*, *CNN*, *The Guardian*, *Sojourners*, *The Nation*, and others. In 2018, she gave the “Building a Moral Movement” TEDtalk at TEDWomen. She was named the Women of Spirit recipient from the Presbyterian Church (USA), Selma “Bridge” Award recipient in 2018, one of the [Politico 50](#) of “thinkers, doers and visionaries whose ideas are driving politics”, one of 11 Women Shaping the Church by *Sojourners*, and one of 15 faith leaders to watch by the Center for American Progress in 2020.

Liz is the author of [Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said about the Poor \(Eerdmans, 2017\)](#). She is co-author of [Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing \(Beacon, 2018\)](#). Liz is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and teaches at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

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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