



The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

OCTOBER 25, 2020
TWENTY-FIRST 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:

“If I fall, I’ll fall five feet four inches forward in the fight for
freedom. I’m not backing off.”

– Fannie Lou Hamer

“Never to forget where we came from and always praise the bridges that
carried us over.”

– Fannie Lou Hamer


“Until the killing of black men, black mothers’ sons, becomes as important to the
rest of the country as the killing of a white mother’s sons, we who believe in freedom
cannot rest until this happens.”

– Ella Baker

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

There are the Holy Commandments

J. Lemckert

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Fantasia on “Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott” (BWV 651)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hsien-Yu Wang

One: Where faith may fade and courage may wane,

All: Our loyal God stands strong.

One: Where arms are open and hearts are warm,

All: Our loving God lives on.

One: Through the stories of the women in the bible, inspire us to live fearlessly with strength and dignity.

All: In this time together, may God's Holy Spirit join us in worship.

OPENING 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 own 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.**

INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

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; Even the spirit of truth. (John 14: 15-17)

Tammy Mesic, soprano
Matthew Krenz, tenor

Daiyao Zhong, mezzo-soprano
Russell Saint John, baritone

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Celia Lloyd

Esther 4:10-17

(page 447 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins

The Sum Of Our Hopes

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. Phil Tom

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Robin Veenstra Vanderweele

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: They will be always praising thee. The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handywork, O prosper thou our handywork. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

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. Tom

Today we celebrate the ministry of Movies at Riverside, which shows thought-provoking movies on the last Sunday of each month, covering topics such as the environment and political conflicts. These movies are meant to raise questions on themes related to social justice and/or insight into the experiences of people whose stories are often unfamiliar.

CLOSING HYMN 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden zart

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,

The God of all creation,

The God of power, the God of love,

The God of our salvation;

With healing balm my soul is filled,

And every faithless murmur stilled:

To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made

God's gracious mercy keepeth;

By morning glow or evening shade

God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;

Within the kingdom of God's might,

Lo! all is just and all is right:

To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
But through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay,
Our peace and joy and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E-Flat Major, "St. Anne" (BWV 552)

J. S. Bach

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Robin Veenstra Vanderweele & Celia Lloyd



The Rev. Dr. Harkins serves as Director of Interfaith Outreach for The Democratic National Committee, where he coordinates all of the party's engagement with faith communities and faith leaders.

From 2015 to 2020 he served as Senior Vice President for Innovation in Public Programs at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1997 to 2015 Dr. Harkins was the Senior Minister of the Nineteenth

Street Baptist Church in Washington, DC., where he led the congregation in initiatives ranging from community development, providing health education and access, as well as international relief and development in Rwanda, Burkina Faso, and Jamaica.

Before beginning his pastorate at Nineteenth Street, he served as the Senior Minister of the New Hope Baptist Church of Dallas Texas. There he also served as President of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches and was a founding board member of The Dallas Leadership Foundation. His ministerial career began at the Historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York where he was a seminarian intern before becoming Assistant Minister. Dr. Harkins has been a guest lecturer on the church and social action at a number of colleges and universities including, Rutgers, Cornell, Iona College, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Harkins was a contributing author for [The Audacity of Faith: Christian Leaders Reflect on the Election of Barack Obama](#) (Judson Press). He is also the Chair of the Board of Odyssey Impact Productions, whose film, *Newtown*, was the winner of a 2018 Peabody Award. Their production *Notes from Dunblane: Lessons from a School Shooting* was awarded best documentary short at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival. In addition, he is an Executive Producer of the widely acclaimed documentary, *The Rape of Recy Taylor*, and also the upcoming documentary, *A Crime on the Bayou*. An active voice on a range of issues including racial justice, economic equity, and immigration reform, he has appeared on a number of media outlets, including CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and NPR. He has also served on the Boards of Sojourners, Faith in Public Life, and World Relief. He has earned a B.S. degree in Broadcasting and Film, from Boston University, a Master of Divinity degree in Church History from Union Theological Seminary, NY, and a Doctorate in Homiletics as a Proctor Booth Fellow from United Seminary, in Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife Juli, a healthcare grants administrator, are the parents of two daughters Lauren and Shannon.

Featured on the cover left to right:

Judith Heumann Disability rights activist, successfully sued the Board of Education on the basis of discrimination, and became the first wheelchair user to teach in New York City.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett Black investigative journalist, educator, an early leader in the civil rights movement, and one of the founders of the NAACP.

Malala Yousafzai Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. Known for human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children in Pakistan.

Shirley Chisholm First African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress and first African-American candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States.

Sylvia Rivera Latina American gay liberation and transgender rights activist, and co-founder of the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) with Marsha P. Johnson.

Marsha P. Johnson Gay liberation activist, an outspoken advocate for gay rights, and one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969.

Kamala Harris United States senator from California, and the first African American, the first Asian American, and the third female vice presidential running mate on a major party ticket.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, advocate for gender equality and women's rights, and co-founder of the Women's Rights Project at the ACLU.

Rachel Held Evans Progressive Christian columnist and author, writing about faith, doubt and life in the Bible Belt.

Dolores Huerta Labor leader and civil rights activist and co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, later known as United Farm Workers (UFW).

Marian Wright Edelman Activist for children's rights, and advocate for disadvantaged Americans. Founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund.

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/online**](http://trcnyc.org/online) 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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