



# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

NOVEMBER 8, 2020  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# 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:

“For a wide door for effective work as open to me, and there are many adversaries...  
Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be  
done in love.”


- 1 Corinthians 16:9, 13-14

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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 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

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Let Us Truly Love One Another

*arr. Carol Anne Taylor*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Angel's Farewell

*Edward Elgar*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

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

Hsien-yu Wang

One: Call upon God's wisdom.

**All: She will answer!**

One: Seek God's wisdom.

**All: She dwells in the midst of life.**

One: Follow God's wisdom.

**All: She leads in the paths of light and generosity. Let us listen as we worship together in community.**

### OPENING HYMN 467

How Great Thou Art

*O Store Gud*

**O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed,**

**Refrain:**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;**

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin;**

**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!**

## INVOCATION

### LISTENING

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

### DUET

#### Keep Your Faith In God

*Edgar and Edward O'Neal*  
*Additional lyrics: Matt King*

If you keep your faith in Jesus, hold out, and always trust. I guarantee, try Him and see, everything will be alright if you keep your faith in God. If you keep your hand in the Master's hand, you can make it through this land. I have found out without a doubt, everything will be alright if you keep your faith in God. If you keep your heart pure and full of love, you'll receive a blessing from high above. If you walk God's path, tryin' not to stray, Jesus will welcome you on the Judgment day. Faith is what we need in this world below. If you have faith you can walk through any door. You have Moses' faith, you have Joshua's, you have Mother's, you have Father's, you have Sister's, You have Brother's, Everything will be alright if you keep your faith in God.

*Rev. Freeman Palmer & David Vaughn, vocalists*  
*Matt King, pianist*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20

Dyana Jean Glasgow

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

A Wide Door

Rev. Livingston

### RESPONDING

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

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Amanda Meisenhiemer

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hsien-yu Wang

*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. Livingston

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Livingston

## OFFERTORY SOLO

Hear Ye, Israel! from "Elijah"

*Felix Mendelssohn*

Hear ye, Israel! hear what the Lord speaketh: "Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments!" Who hath believed our report: to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to him oppressed by Tyrants; thus saith the Lord: "I am he that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations? Be not afraid, for I, thy God, will strengthen thee."

*Karen McVoy, 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 Meisenhiemer

*Today we celebrate the ongoing work of our Coming Home Ministry, which has been continuing to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration this year, by committing to provide cell phone and internet access through the end of 2020.*

## CLOSING HYMN 288

### I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

I sing the mighty power of God  
That made the mountains rise;  
That spread the flowing seas abroad  
And built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
That filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,  
Where'er I turn my eyes;  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below  
But makes Thy glories known;  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from Thee  
Is ever in Thy care,  
And everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God, art present there.

### SENDING

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

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

### POSTLUDE

Carillon, Opus 31, No. 21

*Louis Vierne*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Dyana Jean Glasgow*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Adapted from [www.ucc.org/pentecos](http://www.ucc.org/pentecos) [https://wt\\_23\\_november\\_8](https://wt_23_november_8)*

## **Featured on the cover left to right:**

**Sophia, Divine Wisdom** by artist Mary Plaster “I depicted Lady Wisdom seated in the context of the entire Cosmos, beckoning us to inclusive and sustainable decision making that gently cooperates with the global community.”

**Nadia Bolz-Weber** Author and founding pastor of *House for All Sinners and Saints*, known for its ministry to those with drug addiction, depression, and those of other faiths.

**Michelle Obama** American attorney and author and the African-American First Lady of the United States, married to the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama.

**Maya Angelou** American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, best known for her series of autobiographies on her childhood experiences, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

**Toni Morrison** American novelist and essayist, and the first black female editor at Random House in New York City. Best celebrated for her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Beloved*.

**Greta Thunberg** Swedish environmental activist who has gained international recognition for promoting the view that humanity is facing an existential crisis arising from climate change.

**Marilynne Robinson** Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, on issues of religion and science, US history, nuclear pollution, John Calvin, and contemporary American politics.

**Elinor Fosdick Downs** American pediatrician and medical officer in the maternal and child health sector of the WHO, and daughter of Riverside’s Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

**Sharice Davids** American attorney, former mixed martial artist, and politician serving as the U.S. Representative from Kansas, and the first openly LGBT Native American elected to the U.S.

## **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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**Rev. Michael Livingston**  
Interim Senior Minister  
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

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## Pastoral and Program Staff

**Meighan Corbett**  
Director of Stewardship & Development  
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Creaghan**  
Associate Organist  
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper**  
Minister of Older Adults  
lharper@trcnyc.org

**Rich Glassey**  
Executive Director of Operations  
rglassey@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Johnson**  
Director of Music and Organist  
cjohnson@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Jim Keat**  
Digital Minister  
jkeat@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Bruce Lamb**  
Minister of Faith Formation  
blamb@trcnyc.org

**Amanda Meisenheimer**  
Minister of Children & Families  
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Debra Northern**  
Minister of Parish Care  
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

**Carrie Quarquesso**  
Coordinator for Worship & Arts  
cquarquesso@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Kevin VanHook**  
Minister of Justice, Advocacy, & Change  
kvanhook@trcnyc.org

## 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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