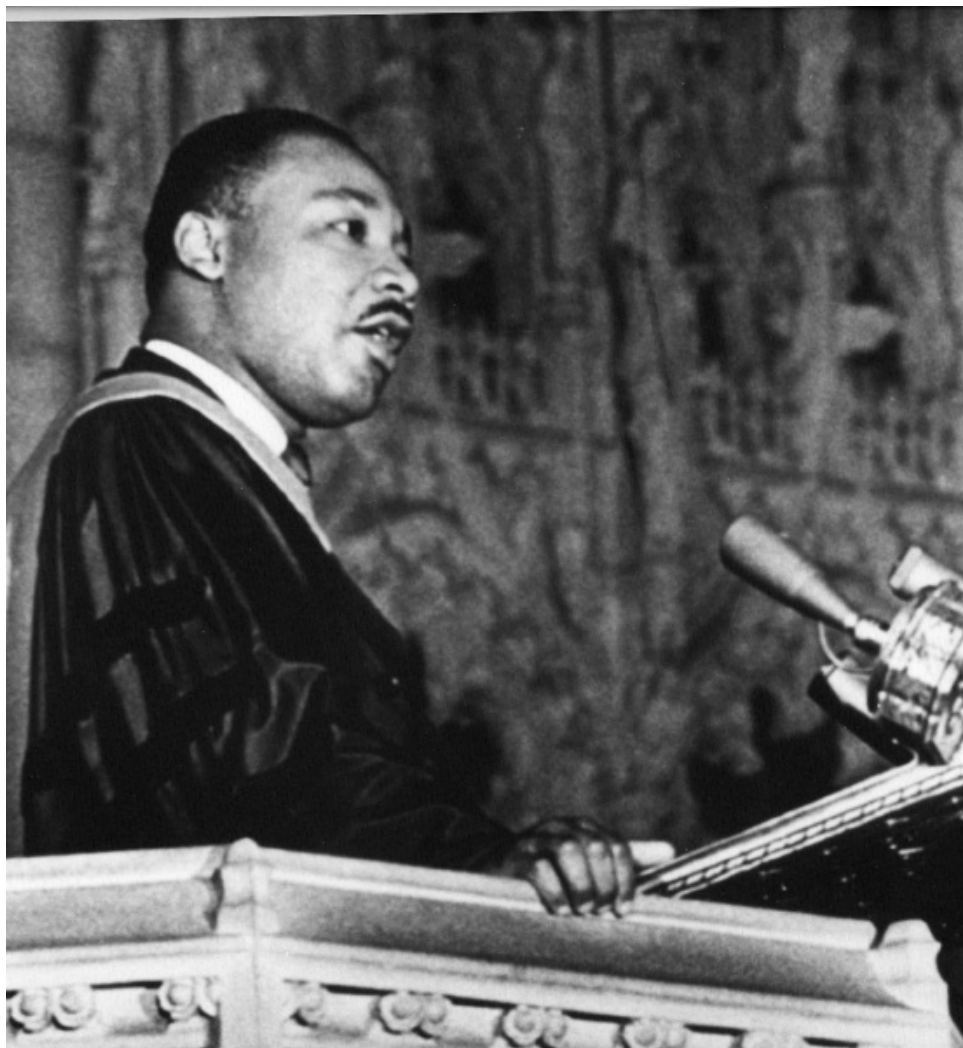


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



JANUARY 17, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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:

“Until our faithfulness, courage and loyalty to God exceed the loyalty of the mob, nightmares will continue to frustrate the dream of the beloved community.”

-Rev Dr. James A. Forbes Jr.

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 Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is signified by purple paraments and clergy stoles representing the sovereignty of Christ (except for Communion Sundays when the liturgical color is white). Each week we light a candle in the wreath on the Nave floor for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Lift Every Voice and Sing

arr. Carol Lens

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Suite for Solo Organ: We Shall Overcome

Sharon J. Willis

I. Rosa: We Shall Overcome

IV. Hope: There is a Balm in Gilead

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Debra Northern

One: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name.

All: Make known His deeds among the peoples.

One: Sing praises and tell of God's wonderful works.

All: Glory in God's holy name.

One: Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice!

All: Sing and rejoice as we come together to worship.

OPENING HYMN 341

Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine

Assurance

**Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. (Refrain)**

INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Karen McVoy

Genesis 45:1-15

(page 42 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr.

Beneath Our Ups and Downs

RESPONDING

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

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.

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. Northern

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Livingston

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Balm in Gilead

Spiritual, arr. Shelton Becton

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Makea McDonald, 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

Rev. Northern

Today we celebrate the work of our Membership Ministry, which is dedicated to accompanying our church members and prospective members on their spiritual journeys.

CLOSING HYMN 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

**Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our *fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.**

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Great Day"

arr. Adolphus Hailstork

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Inspired by Psalm 105*

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Karen McVoy

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.

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

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.

For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK