



The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

FEBRUARY 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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:

God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.

When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

Then God said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.

And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

-from Jonah 4:6-11

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 Lent, a period of forty days leading to Easter marked by repentance and reflection on everything in our lives that separates us from God. The liturgical color of Lent is purple as signified by the paraments, wall hanging, and clergy stoles (excepting communion Sundays when clergy wear white stoles).

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

Adagio

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Denis Bédard

Dale Wood

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Kevin VanHook

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Michael Livingston

One: God of revelation, open our eyes to the depth of your presence.

All: Show us who we truly are in you.

One: Reveal all harm that lies hidden under cover

All: Bring us justice and healing as you lift up our souls.

One: Teach us to trust you more on our Lenten journey.

All: Let us be mindful of your mercy and steadfast love as we come together to worship.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

**Forty days and forty nights
You were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Shall not we Your sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with You to suffer pain?**

**Then if Satan on us press,
Flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
Grant we may not faint nor fail!**

**So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as served You faithfully.**

**Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Your side;
That with You we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.**

LISTENING

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

A MOMENT FOR LENT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Livingston

RESPONSIVE PSALM 25

Tone: Gelineau



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Daiyao Zhong, mezzo-soprano

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Lakeisha McCoy

Genesis 34:1-31 (*abridged*)

(*pages 31 & 32 in the New Testament*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

Listening for Dinah

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. VanHook

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. VanHook

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Livingston

OFFERTORY SOLO

Agnus Dei

Georges Bizet

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Daiyao Zhong, mezzo-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. VanHook

Today we celebrate the work of the Ecclesia Ministry, which leads services and serves lunch monthly in Marcus Garvey Park, as we seek to reach people who wish to praise and worship God in community.

LITANY FOR HEALING

Hillary Puckett

One: As we go forth on this Lenten journey, may "healing" be our watchword, a healing based on truth and justice, grounded in the love of Christ Jesus, the Crucified One.

All: O Christ, we rejoice that you are the Great Physician, by your wounds that we are healed.

One: Heal our hurting Earth, nation, city, and church.

All: By your wounds we are healed.

One: Heal our weary spirits and broken hearts.

All: By your wounds we are healed.

One: Heal our ailing bodies and fractured minds.

All: By your wounds we are healed.

One: We give thanks for the hope of Resurrection,
for the promise of renewal and healing.

All: By your wounds we are healed.

OPENING HYMN 87

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt uns, Herr

**The glory of these forty days
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**Alone and fasting Moses saw
The loving God who gave the law;
And to Elijah, fasting, came
The steeds and chariots of flame.**

**So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
Delivered from the lions' might;
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
The herald of Messiah's name.**

**Then grant that we like them be true,
Consumed in fast and prayer with You;
Our spirits strengthen with Your grace,
And give us joy to see Your face.**

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Fanfare and Chorale

Calvin Fuller

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Lakeisha McCoy & Hillary Puckett



Amy-Jill Levine (AJ) is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt. Her over 30 books include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*; four children's books (with Sandy Sasso); *The Gospel of Luke* (with Ben Witherington III), the first Gospel commentary by a Jew and an

Evangelical Protestant; and *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (co-edited with Marc Brettler). In 2019 she became the first Jew to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute. In 2020 she published *The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, and, with Marc Brettler, *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*. AJ describes herself as an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches New Testament in a Christian divinity school in the Buckle of the Bible Belt.

Featured on the cover left to right:

Claudette Colvin Arrested at the age of 15 in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded, segregated bus, nine months before the more widely known incident involving Rosa Parks.

Misty Copeland American ballet dancer for American Ballet Theatre, one of the three leading classical ballet companies in the United States. On June 30, 2015, Copeland became the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's 75-year history.

Mae Jemison American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She became the first black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

Amanda S. C. Gorman American poet and activist whose work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. First person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. On January 20, 2021, she delivered the poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of Joe Biden.

Fannie Lou Hamer Known for her use of spirituals and her resilience in leading the civil rights movement for black women in Mississippi. Despite enduring violent opposition, she helped thousands of African-Americans in Mississippi to become registered voters.

Nina Simone American singer, songwriter, musician, arranger, and civil rights activist. Simone performed and spoke at civil rights meetings, including the marches from Selma to Montgomery. Her song "Four Women" exposed the eurocentric appearance standards imposed on black women in America.

Andrea Jenkins American policy aide, politician, writer, performance artist, poet, and transgender activist. She is known for being the first black openly transgender woman elected to public office in the United States, serving since January 2018 on the Minneapolis City Council.

Harmonia Rosales Afro-Cuban American artist whose work explores Black female empowerment through art that challenges ideological hegemony in contemporary society, often reimagining Black heroines in classic Renaissance paintings as the main subject of the painting because "religion and power go hand in hand".

Serena Williams American professional tennis player and former world No. 1 in women's single tennis. She has used her platform to speak out about gender and racial equity and her personal struggles as a Black woman in tennis. The NAACP honored Williams with the President's Award at the annual NAACP Image Awards.

Wangari Maathai Kenyan social, environmental, and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize. In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights.

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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