



The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

MARCH 21, 2021
FIFTH 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:

“Humble yourselves in the sight of God and God will exalt you.”

-James 4:10

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

Harmony of Zion

John Know

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

What Wondrous Love is This

Nancy Wertsch

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

One: For all who know love, pain, joy, and faith,

All: We call you to worship!

One: For all who lament, value kindness, live with loss, and pray,

All: We call you to worship!

One: On this Lenten journey, let us be open to God's grace through it all.

All: Let us love, listen, and learn as we praise God together in worship.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Rathbun

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

LISTENING

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

A MOMENT FOR LENT

Rev. Livingston

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

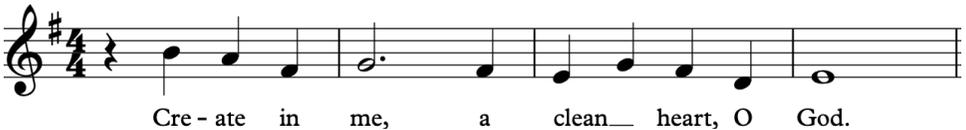
One: Lord have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Book of Common Prayer

C. Johnson



Cre - ate in me, a clean heart, O God.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Charlotte Veenstra-Vanderweele

James 4:5-10

(pages 231 in the New Testament)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps

Trad. Spiritual, arr. John Helgen

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work is almost done. Children, don't get weary, for this work is almost done. Darker midnight lies before us, for this work is almost done. Lo, the morning soon is breaking, for this work is almost done. Children, don't get weary, for this work is almost done. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work is almost done.

The Riverside Rising Voices & The Riverside Youth Choir

Matthew Hommez, director

Yuliya Basis, accompanist

A READING

Alan Bentz-Letts & Susan Wersan

The following is the historic formal apology given to the Aboriginal people of Australia by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on behalf of its parliament and government.

SERMON

The Alchemy of The Apology

V

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Harper

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. Livingston

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Shannel Morrison

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Raymond H. Haan

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin; From earth-born passions set me free and make me pure within. Lord Jesus, think on me with many a care oppressed; Let me thy loving servant be and taste thy promised rest. Lord Jesus, think on me amid the battle's strife; In all my pain and misery be thou my health and life. Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray; Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way. Lord Jesus, think on me when floods the tempest high; When on doth rush the enemy, O Savior, be thou nigh! Lord Jesus, think on me that, when the flood is past, I may the eternal brightness see and share thy joy at last. Amen.

Lisa Daehlin, soprano Kimberly Walton, alto

Johnny Lee Green, tenor David Orcutt, bass

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. Harper

Today we celebrate the young voices of Riverside's Cherub Choir and Rising Voices, who share their beautiful ministry of music with the church and community.

LITANY FOR HEALING

Stephen Pierre-Paul

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 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.

CLOSING HYMN 421

The Church of Christ in Every Age

Wareham

The church of Christ in every age,
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
A caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.

**We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating word.**

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Cortège

Louis Vierne

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Charlotte Veenstra-Vanderweele,
Alan & Susan, Shannel Morrison, Stephen Pierre-Paul*



V (Formerly Eve Ensler) is the Tony award winning playwright and author of the Obie award winning, theatrical phenomenon, *The Vagina Monologues* translated into 48 languages, performed in 140 countries along with many other plays. She is the author of a number of books including her latest best sellers, *The Apology*, translated into more than 15 languages, and *In the Body of the World* as well as The New York Times best seller, *I am an Emotional Creature*. She starred on Broadway in *The Good Body*, and

most recently Off-Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club in *In the Body of the World*. During the Covid 19 pandemic she helped create *That Kindness: Nurses in Their Own Words* presented by Brooklyn Academy of Music in accordance with theaters all across the country; a tribute to nurses during the COVID 19 pandemic. She is founder of V-Day, the 22 year-old global activist movement which has raised over 120 million dollars to end violence against all women all women (cisgender and transgender), those who hold fluid identities, nonbinary people, girls and the planet—and founder of One Billion Rising, the largest global mass action to end gender-based violence in over 200 countries, as well as a co-founder of City of Joy. She writes regularly for The Guardian.

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.

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
cqarquesso@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



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