



The Riverside Church  
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

MARCH 7, 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

# 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:

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-11

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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 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).

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

O Rest in the Lord

*Felix Mendelssohn*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Cantilena

Retrospection

*Charity Boyles*

*Florence B. Price*

*Christopher Johnson, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

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

Amanda Meisenheimer

One: The morning stars profess God's glory:

**All: The waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.**

One: The sun warms us with God's hope.

**All: The night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls.**

One: Creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts,  
reminding us of God's steadfast love.

**All: God's words place joy in our hearts, let us follow  
them to peace and joy as we enter into worship.**

### INVOCATION

#### OPENING HYMN 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*St. Flavian*

Lord, who throughout these forty days

For us didst fast and pray,

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,

And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend,

And didst the victory win,

O give us strength in Thee to fight,

In Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,

And through Thy Passiontide,

Yea, evermore, in life and death,

O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life

Of suffering over-past,

An Easter of unending joy

We may attain at last!

## 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 19

Hal. H. Hopson



The sta-tutes of the Lord are just, they re- jice\_\_\_\_\_ the heart.\_\_\_\_

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*Jasmine Ismail, soprano*  
*Erik Rasmussen, tenor*

*Mary Jo Page, mezzo-soprano*  
*Jeremy Leung, baritone*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amanda Meisenheimer

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amanda Meisenheimer

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

## RESPONDING

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

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord, I Approach Thy Mercy Seat

*Trad., arr. Alice Parker*

Lord, I approach thy mercy-seat, where thou dost answer prayer; There humbly fall beneath thy feet for none doth perish there. Thy promise is my only plea; With this I venture nigh; Thou callest burden'd souls to thee, and such, O Lord, am I. Bowed down beneath a load of sin, by Satan sorely press'd, by war without and fear within, I come to thee for rest. Be thou my Shield, my hiding place; That shelter'd near thy side, I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him, thou hast died. (from Melodious Accord)

## 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 Meisenheimer

*Today we celebrate the work of our Black Lives Matter chapter, which affirms the humanity of all and works tirelessly for a world where all Black lives are no longer systematically targeted.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Livingston

*Following our petition, please join in the following response:*

One: O Merciful God,  
**All: hear our prayer.**

## 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.**

## CHORAL AMEN

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Amanda Meisenheimer

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

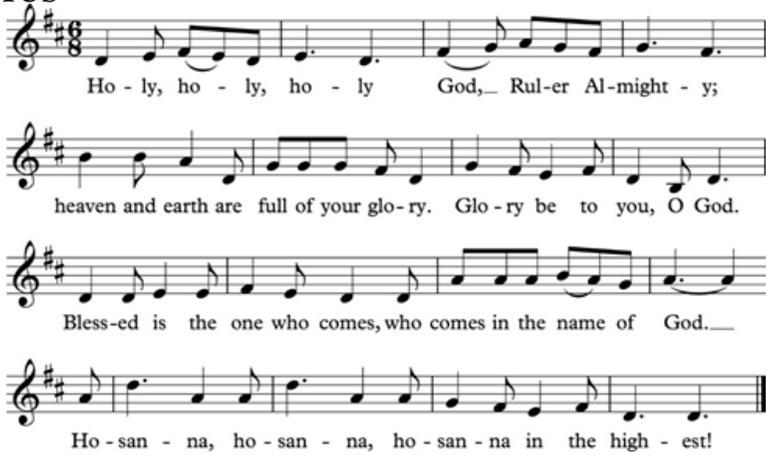
## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Livingston

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And with your spirit.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;  
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.  
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God. —  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Livingston & Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

## CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!**

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!**

## LITANY FOR HEALING

Dr. Pam Davis

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 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.**

**CLOSING HYMN 371**

**Lift High the Cross**

*Crucifer*

*Refrain:*

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)**

**Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)**

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

Prelude in F Major

*Fanny Mendelssohn*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Dr. Pam Davis &  
Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Adapted from <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/> Copyright Thom M. Shuman*



**Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson** is a university professor of sociology at Georgetown University, writer, speaker, and political analyst. An ordained Baptist minister, he is a New York Times contributing opinion writer and a contributing editor of *The New Republic* and of ESPN's *The Undeclared* website. Dyson previously taught at universities including Brown, UNC Chapel Hill, Columbia, DePaul, and University of Pennsylvania. The author of the New York Times best-seller, *Tears We Cannot Stop:*

*Sermon to White America*, Dyson has written over 20 books on race, race relations, and figures including Malcolm X, Barack Obama, and Jay Z. The recipient of two NAACP Image Awards, he has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, National Public Radio, and HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher."

## **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](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*



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