

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



APRIL 18, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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:

Let us then listen to women's wisdom, discern our kinship with the earth, and remember the Spirit, as vital steps toward an ecological ethic and spirituality."

- Elizabeth A. Johnson, Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit

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 Eastertide, a period of 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ until Pentecost. The liturgical color of Eastertide is white, which symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death, as signified by the paraments and clergy stoles.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Alleluia to God on High

Georg Philipp Telemann, arr. Charles Semowich

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Elegy

George T. Thalban-Ball

Chorale Prelude on “Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

(Nassau)

David Thorne

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Kevin VanHook

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Creator God, we declare with joy and trust that our world belongs to you.

All: With a fierce love, we declare our world belongs to God.

One: For the manifold ways that it reveals your glory, our world belongs to you.

All: In its awesome beauty and bountiful provision, our world belongs to God.

One: As your people, we long for the day when our world will be renewed.

All: Let us look to God for compassionate motivation as we come together to worship.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 108

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the God-head reigns

In every insult, rift and war,
Where color, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. VanHook

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PSALTER LESSON

Mara Landers

Psalms 104:1-4, 13-24

(pages 554 & 555 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Ask, Seek, Knock

Nancy Raabe

Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door shall be opened for you, for this is the kingdom of God. A new commandment have I given to you, that you love one another just I love you. For this is how people know that you are my disciples, by the way you show God's love. Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door shall be opened for you, for this is the kingdom of God. Ask! Seek! Ask and the door shall be opened for you, for this is the kingdom of God.

*The Rising Voices Choir
Matthew Hommez, Director
Yuliya Basis, Pianist*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Reuben and Jacqueline Martinez

Song of Solomon 1:2-5, 9-16

(page 622 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Amanda Meisenheimer

The Liberation of Climate Justice

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Bruce Lamb

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.

CHORAL 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

Bryant Harris

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When I Survey

Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

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. Lamb

Today we celebrate the ministry of Riverside's Beloved Earth Community, which knows that protecting the earth starts with us; one individual, one group, one congregation at a time. We can be the change that starts us on a path to sustainability.

CLOSING HYMN 466

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

**Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.**

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.**

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Amanda Meisenheimer

POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur in D

Alexander Guilmant

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Mara Landers, Reuben and Jacqueline Martinez & Bryant Harris

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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