

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH 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:

a newborn
cannot string
a sentence together.
does that bother you?

seeds must disappear
into the earth
before bouquets bloom
is that ok?

every overnight success
follow endless nights
of nothing
did anyone tell you that?
life leads to death
death to resurrection.
for eons the cosmos
held classes on this

give that new thing time

allow it to disappear
in the dirt for a season

know that restless nights
are normal.

and death
is
not
the closing scene.

'just you wait'
David Tensen

davidtensen.com

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

I Love to Tell the Stories

arr. Lee Cobb

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Holy Ghost, With Light Divine (Song 13)

Percy Whitlock

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God.

All: Like a mother, you loved us before we formed in the womb.

One: You know our every intimate thought yet love us still the same.

All: Your presence never leaves us nor does your love ever end.

One: Because of you, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

All: We know well your wonderful works. Let us praise your wonderful name!

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us²

Nettleton

Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight.

Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,

Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.

**Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and
might,**

Left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,

Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Livingston

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GOSPEL LESSON

Chloe Landers

Luke 2:41-51

(page 59 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

The Solid Rock

Edward Mote and William B. Bradbury

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His Lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

Matt King, piano

John McFadden

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley

Jesus, Where are you?

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.

CHORAL AMEN

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister Wingate

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Nancy Clark

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with a voice of triumph. For the Lord most high is terrible; God is a great King over all the earth. God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises everyone who hath understanding. God reigneth over the nations: God sitteth upon the throne of great holiness. Sing praises to God; sing praises unto our King.

Kendra Berentsen, soprano

Meghann Vaughn, alto

Matthew Krenz, tenor

Christopher Judd, 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

Minister Wingate

Today we celebrate the work of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, which is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

CLOSING HYMN 479

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Lauda Anima

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;

Glad of heart your carols raise;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven

Who, like me, should sing God's praise?

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favour

Shown our forebears in distress;

God is still the same forever,

Slow to chide, and swift to bless:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring,

God knows well our feeble frame;

Gladly all our burdens bearing,

Still to countless years the same.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration,

You behold God face to face;

Sun and moon and all creation,

Dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

'Gigue' Fugue in G Major (BWV 577)

J. S. Bach

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Chloe Landers & Nancy Clark

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Inspired by Psalm 139*

²*From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright ©1995 The Pilgrim Press.*

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Since May 1, 2015, the **Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley** is the Regional Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, a community of 180 churches in the greater NYC area.

With a BA in Sociology from Pomona College, an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a DMin from McCormick Theological Seminary, Dudley has served in pastoral, community, educational, denominational, ecumenical, and philanthropic roles. She has been the

Acting Director of African American Studies at Bradley University, and the Executive Director of Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service in Central Illinois. She has served as the President of the Board of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and InspirAction USA. She was a spiritual counselor for Project SAFE - for Black women survivors of partner violence and sexual assault. She is a part of the inaugural board of Bricks and Mortals NYC and a continuing member of the Board of Flemister House. Dudley reflects, "Ironically, 2020 and 2021 have presented opportunities "to be present" like never before. Despite the global pandemic, and our volatile culture, proclaiming justice, mercy, hope and love is more important than ever before. Our comfort zones have been shattered, yet we make community anyway among the shards."

MOTHER'S DAY HONOREES

Contributions made to Riverside in honor of all these special women in all of our lives.

Angela Aidala	Rev. Debra Northern
Genevieve Aidala	Barbara Orcutt
Bertha Anderson	Vickie Phifer
Olga Barnes	Myrtle Pollard
Mary Behrens	Helen Pollard
Dianne Belton	Carrie Quarquesso
Annie Ruth M. Belton	Mary Roberts
Joy Beynon	Maye Rucker
Justine Butler	Mamie Thomas Rudisill
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper	Jessica Rudisill
Judy Cookson	Cynthia Shoemaker
Jane Ann Curtis	Phyllis Singleton
Barbara L. Curtis	Amy Smith
Bethany Donaphin	Dale Totten Stannard
Louise Frazer	Louisa Pohlson Strand
Wilhelmina Glanville	Jennie Thomas Stultz
Helen Horton	Clarice Laverne Thompson
Tyler Thomas Huffstetler	Charity J. Tofte
Ruth Jellison	Rev. Hsien-yu Wang
Mary Lash	Barbara Waterbury
Maude Lawrence	Linda Watkins
Norma Strand LeShanna	Jewell C. Welsh
Linda LeShanna	Jocelynn Debbie Welsh
Nancy Rucker Livingston	Etta M. Wharton
Hazel Livingston	Elizabeth Wheeler
Susie Maniece	Elizabeth Williams
Thelma Maniece-Robinson	Min. Charlene Wingate
Amanda Meisenheimer	Helen Gray Winger
Queenie Elizabeth Mewbern	Emma Curtis Winger
Dorrit Nelson	Marion Wyatt

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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