

The Riverside Church
in the City of New York



**GOD IS
LOVE**



JUNE 27, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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:

“The story of Jesus’s encounter with the Syrophoenician woman is the first time in Mark’s gospel that he identifies a character explicitly by their ethnic identity. The fact that Mark makes a big deal out of it while also depicting Jesus as being so harsh to her should give us pause. It definitely gives pause to Black women, who are well-acquainted with being called “out our names.”

-Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

In Christ There is No East or West

arr. Charles Semowich

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

When in our Music God is Glorified

McNeil Robinson

Christopher Creaghan, organ

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Bruce Lamb

One: Those who are thirsty, come to the fount that will not dry up.

All: We bring our thirst here to be quenched.

One: Those who are weary, Spirit is a ready refuge.

All: We bring our weariness so that we might find rest.

One: Those who feel lost, come to the One who knows the way.

All: Lead us by the hand, by our hearts, and by hope.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

Community of Christ¹

Leoni

Community of Christ,
Who make the Cross your own,
Live out your creed and risk your life
For God alone:
The God who wears your face,
To whom all worlds belong,
Whose children are of every race
And every song.

Community of Christ,
Look past the Church's door
And see the refugee, the hungry,
And the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
The jobless in your street,
Take towel and water, that you wash
Your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ,
Through whom the word must sound,
Cry out for justice and for peace
The whole world round:

**Disarm the powers that war
And all that can destroy,
Turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
Into joy.**

**When menace melts away,
So shall God's will be done,
The climate of the world be peace
And Christ its Sun;
Our currency be love
And kindness our law,
Our food and faith be shared as one
For evermore.**

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Livingston

In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GOSPEL LESSON

Irwin Reese

Mark 7:24-30

(page 42 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes

But a Woman

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 in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your 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.

Save us from the time of trial, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Lamb

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Victoria Anderson

OFFERTORY SOLO

O Divine Redeemer

Charles Gounod

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me though unworthy; Hear thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from thy throne, haste thee, Lord, to mine aid, thy pity shew in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, Though righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call. O Divine Redeemer! I pray thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins! Forgive me, O Divine Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to thee; come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry! Save me Lord in Thy mercy; come and save me O Lord! Save, in the day of retribution, From Death shield thou me, O my God! Divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Saviour!

Matthew Krenz, tenor

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 Maranatha, which for over forty years has worked to provide a safe and welcoming haven where lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gay, and queer people can be their whole selves, find healing community, and share their God-given gifts in faith and love.

CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions²

New Dimensions

**In the midst of new dimensions,
In the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?**

Refrain:

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
Leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
Now and ever, now and ever more.**

**Through the flood of starving people,
Warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? *Refrain***

**As we stand a world divided
By our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
Might envision wider dreams *Refrain***

**Should the threats of dire predictions
Cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
Resurrect the church again. *Refrain***

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Promenade, from 'Jubilee Suite'

Gordon Young

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Irwin Reese & Victoria Anderson

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Text: Shirley Erena Murray, ©1992, Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.
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²*Text and music: ©1985, Julian B. Rush. All rights reserved. Used with
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Chanequa Walker-Barnes, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist, public theologian, and ecumenical minister whose work focuses upon identifying and healing the individual and societal legacies of racial and gender oppression. She is the author of *Too Heavy a Yoke: Black Women and the Burden of Strength* (2014) and *I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation* (2019). Beyond the classroom, Dr. Chanequa spends most of her professional energy writing and ministering to clergy and

faith-based activists. Her faith has been shaped by Methodist, Baptist, and evangelical social justice communities as well as by Buddhism and Islam. She was ordained by an independent fellowship that holds incarnational theology, community engagement, social justice, and prophetic witness as its core values. She has recently been appointed as Professor of Practical Theology and Pastoral Care at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

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



trcnyc.org



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