



JULY 4, 2021
 SIXTH 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:

“There is a strength, a power even, in understanding brokenness, because embracing our brokenness creates a need and desire for mercy, and perhaps a corresponding need to show mercy. When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things you can’t otherwise see; you hear things you can’t otherwise hear. You begin to recognize the humanity that resides in each of us.”

-Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*

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.

Bulletin cover image: “ Jim Harris.

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Chorale Partita on 'Our God, Our Help in Ages Past'

John Knox

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Improvisation on "Simple Gifts"

Alice Jordan

Prelude on "Amazing Grace"

George Shearing

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jim Keat

One: We gather this morning celebrating our freedom to worship God.

All: May God continue to bless the free and faithful in every home.

One: We draw near to the God that rules over all nations.

All: May God continue to bless our country and every nation of this world.

One: We seek to live in peace and harmony with all who dwell on the earth.

All: May God help us to establish peace on earth that begins in our hearts. Come, let us worship!

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

National Hymn

**God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.**

**Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.**

**From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase;
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.**

Russell Saint John, baritone

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev Hsien-yu Wang

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

EPISTLE LESSON

Shem Rajoon

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

(pages 185 & 186 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

A Perfect Weakness

RESPONDING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

*Arr. by Nalini Calamur & *Z* McClelland*

Stanford Talisman Alumni Virtual Choir

Soloists: Imani Roach, Garry Mitchell, Taylor Crutison, Akua Nyarko-Odoom, Bria Holmes-Lewis, Willie Hercule, Shantelle Williams-Valadié, Jelanie Munroe, Uche Amakiri, John Okhiulu, Taylor Wright, Samantha Williams, Stephanie Fischer, Will Tarpeh

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Okome Muoyo

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Spiritual, arr. Hall Johnson

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray. Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of His mouth came fire and smoke. In the valley, on my knees, ask my Lord have mercy please. Jordan river is chilly and cold. Chills the body but not the soul. All around me, looked so shine, asked my Lord if all was mine. Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and runs right back. Saint Peter's waitin' at the gate, says "Come on, Sinner, don't be late."

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. Keat

Today we celebrate the work of the Men's Class Ministry, which provides all members of the congregation with opportunities to grow in faith and service by addressing issues of social injustice that plague our community.

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 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. Keat

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

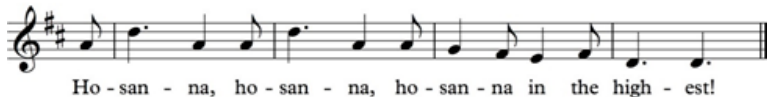
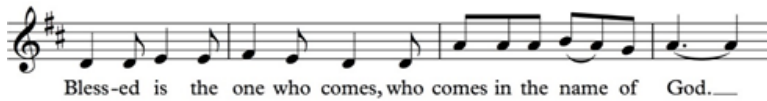
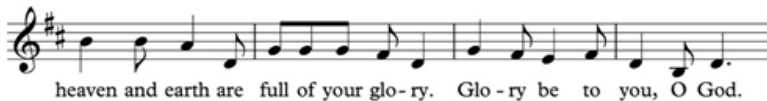
All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



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

The image shows a musical score for the Memorial Acclamation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff: "Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain." The music is a simple, hymn-like setting.

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!

OPENING HYMN 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Great Day"

Adolphus Hailstork

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Shem Rajoon & Okome Muoyo

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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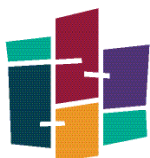
CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email communications@trcnyc.org.

For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK