



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

AUGUST 15, 2021
TWELFTH 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:

“Father, father

We don't need to escalate

You see, war is not the answer

For only love can conquer hate

You know we've got to find a way

To bring some lovin' here today”

-“What's Going On” by Marvin Gaye

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.

Whats happening at Riverside?

Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below.



Give by your phone

Make an offering using your smartphone by opening your camera and scanning the code below.

Or text TRCNYCGIVE to
833.833.4035.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Our Father in Heaven

arr. Heleen van Weel

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Adagietto
Sarabande

*Léon Boëllmann
Seth Bingham*

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Phil Tom

One: In the beginning, God created the earth.

All: God gave us light, the wind, sky, and seas.

One: God leads us on a path to peace.

All: With God's grace we have all the help we need.

One: God calls us to love one another in Christ.

All: United in love, let us open our hearts to the Word of God as we worship.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN 487

Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

When morning gilds the skies,

My heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer

To Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?

A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss?

My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round

In joyful notes resound:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky

From depth to height reply:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

**Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Camille Massey

Genesis 1:1-10

(page 1 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Livingston

1 John 3:11-17

(page 240 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson

To Kill or not To Kill: The Question for our Nation

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, deliver us from evil.

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Livingston

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Alan Bentz-Letts & Susan Wersan

OFFERTORY SOLO

The Lord Is My Light

Frances Allitsen

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom, then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid? Though a host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid; and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him. For, in the time of trouble, he shall hide me in his tabernacle, yea, in the secret places of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

Matthew Krenz, tenor

THE DOXOLOGY

Please meditate silently and refrain from singing.

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. Tom

Today we celebrate the work of the Freedom School, which partners with the Children's Defense Fund to provide an enriching summer experience of literacy and social justice for children from our community.

CLOSING HYMN 540

Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Randolph

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you;
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Strike death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Herbert Murrill

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Camille Massey & Alan Bentz-Letts & Susan Wersan



The Reverend Dr. James Herbert Nelson, II, serves as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In this capacity, he serves as the chief ecclesial officer of the denomination and speaks on behalf of the denomination regarding ecclesial, judicial, ecumenical, inter faith, and spiritual matters. As the highest-ranking officer of the PC(USA) Dr. Nelson is setting a new tone for the direction of the denomination. He is calling the

denomination to explore deeper spiritual and communal relationships while engaging a world that is rapidly changing.

J. Herbert, as he is commonly known, is a pastor at heart. He served two congregations in his twenty-four years in parish ministry: St. James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Liberation Community Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, a New Church Development evangelizing the poor to the PC(USA). While pastoring at St. James, he became part of the leadership of a group known as “The Pulpit Forum”. This was a group of African American ecumenical leaders which started a movement in the city against K-Mart’s unfair wage practices. With the assistance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), particularly the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI), the workers achieved their goal of being paid their rightful wages.

Dr. Nelson is calling the denomination back to its historic justice advocacy roots. Having served as the director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., for six years, he is acutely aware of the need for the whole church to become engaged in the pursuit of justice for all. At the biennial meeting of the PC(USA), the 223rd General Assembly (2018) Nelson led the call to recess in order to protest the exploitive cash bail system that preys upon the poor while criminalizing persons for misdemeanor crimes. General Assembly commissioners and other participants (including St. Louis residents and activists) filed into the streets to protest together. The PC(USA) presented a check for \$65,000 to free St. Louis residents incarcerated under this unfair system. In the summer of 2019, Dr. Nelson organized the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky, for yet another cash bail protest march/rally and was able to present funds to the Louisville Cash Bail Project to free local residents trapped within the same system.

Rev. Nelson is a pastor's kid and third generation Presbyterian pastor. A native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, he credits his parents' call to serve the Lord as the basis of this zeal to serve the "Kindom of God."

Dr. Nelson received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina; Master of Divinity from Johnson C. Smith Presbyterian Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia; and Doctor of Ministry from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

On May 18, 2019, Dr. Nelson was bestowed the honor of receiving a *honoris causa* Doctor of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America.

J. Herbert is a very proud life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Dr. Nelson resides in Louisville, Kentucky with his lovely wife, also clergy, Rev. Gail Porter Nelson, and they have a grown daughter.

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 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 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 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.

PARKING - 8/15/2021

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 6:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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