

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



SEPTEMBER 5, 2021  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

“Labor Day is often a marker of the definitive end of summer and the beginning of Fall church and school programming. But how often has the actual significance of Labor Day been emphasized in our worshipping communities, and how often have congregations been encouraged to examine the relationship between faith and labor, of the plight of working people in our communities and among our pews? As we still grapple with the impact of the pandemic on all who have to work for a living, we cannot let Labor Day pass us by without critically examining our faith in light of our oppressive economic and political systems that trample upon both people and planet.”

-Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice, Vanderbilt University

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## 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.

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### 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

Take From us, You, Faithful God

*arr. Jasper Stam*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Suite Liturgique

Denis Bédard

I. Entrée II. Offertoire III. Communion

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>1</sup>

Min. Richard X III

One: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**All: We follow Christ's example and learn from one another!**

One: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**All: We follow Christ's example and learn from one another!**

One: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together.

**All: Come! Let us follow Christ's example and learn from one another as we gather together in worship.**

### INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN 263

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

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

*St. Denio*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

## LISTENING

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Debra Northern

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

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Pat Pell

Isaiah 35:1-10

*(page 663 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL LESSON

Min. X

James 2:1-10, 14-17

*(pages 229 & 230 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Rev. Livingston

God's Choice

## RESPONDING

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

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Areliis Figueroa

#### OFFERTORY SOLO

Be Thou My Vision

*arr. Edwin T. Childs*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, thy child let me be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; thou my inheritance, now and always. Thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Kimberly Walton, mezzo-soprano*

## 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

Min. X

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Welcome Center/Gift Shop, which offers hospitality to all – visitors, members, and staff, and provides items for sale that support the various programs and promote the general mission of our church and faith 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

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

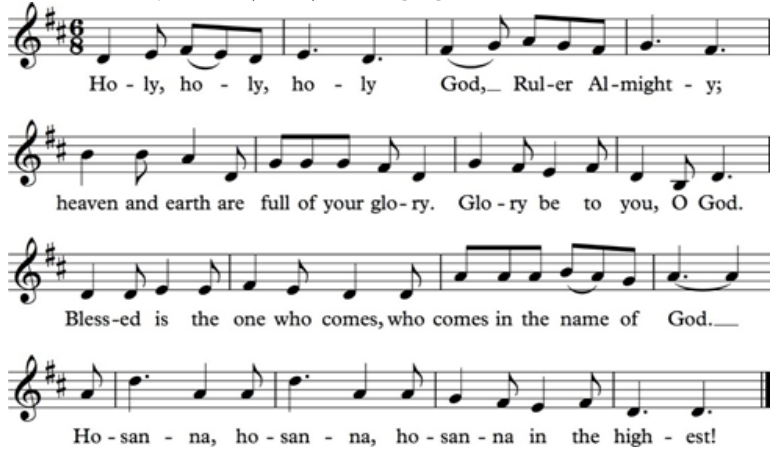
Rev. Northern

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And with your spirit.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## SANCTUS

*Please meditate silently, and refrain from singing.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;  
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.  
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Please meditate silently, and refrain from singing.*



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

## 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!**

*The ushers will distribute single serve cups containing both juice and a small wafer sealed in between the plastic film on the top. We will lower our masks briefly to take communion together, then replace our masks over our nose and mouth. For the safety of our staff and volunteers, we ask that you please hold onto your empty cups until the end of the service, and dispose of them safely in the trash cans provided as you exit the Nave.*

**CLOSING HYMN 386**

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

**O For a World**

*Azmon*

O for a world where everyone  
Respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done  
With justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared  
And misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared,  
Equality achieved.

We welcome one world family  
And struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity  
And gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
The foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,  
Who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more,  
And all but love will cease.

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

*Rev. Livingston*

**POSTLUDE**

*A Trumpet Minuet*

*Alfred Hollins*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Pat Pell & Arelis Figueroa*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Adapted from <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost-15-september-5/>*

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## **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\*\*](https://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\*\*](https://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\*\*](https://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 - 09/01/2021**

**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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### **Rev. Michael Livingston**

Interim Senior Minister  
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### **Pastoral and Program Staff**

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### **CONTACT US:**

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*



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