

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



OCTOBER 17, 2021  
TWENTY-FIRST 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:

“We stand at a vital moment of crisis and challenge for children and youth and our nation. The pandemic, now in its second year, has broken hearts and dashed dreams, cost families their homes, health, education, security, celebrations, rituals, and routines. The national reckoning with racism and white supremacy, over-policing, and police killing of unarmed Black and brown children, youth, and adults has been traumatic. An attempted insurrection and ongoing assault on democratic institutions adds to the pain. Each of these challenges has surfaced and exacerbated mental health challenges already going unmet. How a child, youth, parent, or other adult has experienced the past year varied dramatically by age, family, location, and circumstance. The only way we will know what is true for our children hit hardest, is by asking “Where does it hurt?” then listening attentively. Only by asking where it hurts and listening deeply will we be guided by those who feel the pain to know how to help, how to promote healing, how to prevent further harm.”

- Marian Wright Edelman & Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson

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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.



Following industry standard, Riverside has secured rapid onsite COVID testing services for the health and safety of performers singing together, allowing us to permit unmasked singing. All performers will remain masked at all other times, but will unmask for anthems and singing in the chancel.

## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

I Love to Tell the Stories  
Fantasy on Sunday School Hymns  
A Medley of children's Hymns

*Lee Cobb  
John Gouwans  
Richard Giszczak*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Three Hymn Preludes  
Be Thou My Vision  
Ar Hyd y Nos  
Come Ye Children of the Lord

*Richard Elliott  
Carlo Curley  
James C. Kasen*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### SPECIAL MUSIC

The Battle of Jericho  
Down by the Riverside

*Original arrangements*

*Sing Harlem! Choir, Mama Foundation for the Arts  
Abmaya Knoelle Higginsen, director  
Greg Kelly, pianist*

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

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

One: Where does it hurt?

**All: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the voices of our children.**

One: What do you hope?

**All: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the hopes of children and to nurture the hope within each of us.**

One: How can we help?

**All: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear how we can help in partnership with those who are hurting, as ones who are hoping.**

One: Who are you and why are you here?

**All: We gather this morning as God's people to worship God, in confidence that God hears our hurts and hopes before they are even on our lips, and calls us, as God's partners, to help with a passion for justice and hearts full of love.**

### INVOCATION

#### OPENING HYMN 267

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

**All Things Bright and Beautiful**

*Royal Oak*

## LISTENING

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Min. Richard X III

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

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### ANTHEM

“The Light of God’s Love” with “This Little Light of Mine” *Mark Burrows*

Look into my heart, what do you see? God’s light shining in me. And I can reflect God’s image, shine so bright, it will chase away the darkness night. It’s a light that’s brighter than a thousand stars above, the light of God’s love. Deep down in your heart, you’ve got it too, God’s light shining in you. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. Let it shine.

*The Rising Voices Choir  
Matthew Hommez, director  
Yuliya Basis, accompanist*

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. Meisenheimer

#### PSALTER LESSON

Santiago Soto

Psalm 31:1-9 (*from The Message translation*)  
(*pages 505 & 506 in the Old Testament*)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### HYMN 368

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

**I’ve Got Peace Like a River**

*I’ve Got Peace Like a River*

#### GOSPEL LESSON

Harrison Gan

Mark 10:35-45

(*page 47 in the New Testament*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM

Good Trouble (Inspired by John Lewis)

*Thomas Keesecker*

This day has challenged us to make good trouble, to make this world a better place. When the world seems lost and torn, more than we can bear, we find strength to carry on, turning from despair. We shall never be afraid, fear and lies will cease, as we struggle day by day, we seek love and peace. Marching forth and bound with love, walk this way of life, joined together, we have come to banish hate and strife. Make some noise and spread the word: change is on the way. Hope is here, we’re challenged now, night has turned to day! This day has challenged us to make good trouble, to make this world a better place.

*The Rising Voices Choir  
Matthew Hommez, director  
Yuliya Basis, accompanist*

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson

Seen & Not Heard: Raising a Nation by Listening to Children

**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.**

**CHORAL AMEN**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Carter Gan

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE**

The Lily McLean Family

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Cantate Domino

*Nancy Wertsch*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name; proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day. Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations and the wonders of God among all peoples. (sung in Latin)

*Nancy Wertsch, conductor*

**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**

Mariel Crawford

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Riverside Kids Worship, which provides a sacred space for children to connect with God in song, movement, art, and storytelling.*

**CLOSING HYMN 398**

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

**There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit**

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

*Allegro assai vivace, from Sonata No. 1*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Carter Gan, Santiago Soto, Harrison Gan, Latoya Wilkinson, & The Lily McLean Family*

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Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Sabbath-2021\\_Christian-Worship-Resources.pdf](https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Sabbath-2021_Christian-Worship-Resources.pdf)



**The Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson** is president & CEO of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), pursuing the vision of a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being, and communities wield the power to ensure they thrive. Since 1973, CDF has been leading the movement to build power for child-centered public policy, informed by racial equity and the lived experience of children and youth.

Dr. Wilson is board chair for the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) and vice chair of the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE). He also serves boards for CDF Action Council, Duke Divinity School, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference and Sojourners.

From 2011 through 2020, Rev. Wilson was president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, a faith-based philanthropy for child well-being and racial justice in St. Louis. Under his leadership, Deaconess constructed and established the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, a community action tank engaging more than 15,000 citizens annually. From 2008 through 2018, Dr. Wilson also pastored Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community), an inter-racial, inner-city congregation related to the United Church of Christ.

After the police killing of Michael Brown, Jr., Wilson and the church hosted the #BlackLivesMatter Freedom Ride to Ferguson and served as the welcome center for #FergusonOctober. In service of community healing, Wilson co-chaired the Ferguson Commission. In 2015, they released the *'Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity'* Report, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility.

Dr. Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary, and the Doctor of Ministry from Duke University. For his public theology, he was awarded Doctor of Public Service and Doctor of Divinity degrees *honoris causa* by Saint Louis University and Eden Theological Seminary, respectively. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Starsky is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist and child advocate. They are raising four children.

## **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

## **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.

## **JOIN OUR WEEKLY SERMON TALKBACK**

Go deeper with the sermons from The Riverside Church every Sunday after worship for a sermon talkback as part of Virtual Coffee Hour. Visit [trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour](http://trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour) to join us online or go to 411 MLK to join us in person. If you are unable to join the live conversation you can listen to After the Amen, our weekly sermon talkback podcast, as Riverside clergy and congregants talk with Sunday's preacher about how their sermon resonates in our lives and in our world. Visit [trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen](http://trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen) to listen now.

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) 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!

## **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://trcnyc.org/app) to download the app and stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS**

Fall and Winter 2021 Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 p.m. and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals](http://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.

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### **PARKING - 10/17/2021**

**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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## Pastoral and Program Staff

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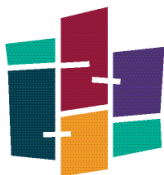
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## CONTACT US:

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



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