

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

OCTOBER 31, 2021
TWENTY-THIRD 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 best thing in life is a thing that’s free.”

Ned Washington, lyrics, sung by Nat King Cole from “Love is the Thing”

“Serve and hate will die unborn. Love—and chains are broken.”

Langston Hughes poem “Alabama Earth” spoken over the grave of Booker T. Washington.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.

“Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

“Strength to Love” by Martin Luther King Jr.

“One love. One heart.”

Bob Marley

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.



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

Triptiek on Hymns by Martin Luther

Johann Lemckert

There are the Holy Commandments
With Peace and Joy, I come
A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Albert Gerken

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

HANDBELLS

Morningdance
The Gift of Grace

*Cathy Moglebust
Arnold B. Sherman*

*The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

+CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Charles King

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: God the source and ground of being, the one from whom all blessings flow.

All: May we move beyond empty words to faith-filled actions, To be a church that embodies your love and justice in the world around us.

One: Inspire us with the preaching of your word, unite and expand us with your ever-inclusive love.

All: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the love and grace of the Lord. Those who get lost find a clear path home. Let us worship the God who gathers us!

+INVOCATION

+OPENING HYMN 260

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

LISTENING

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

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Who'll Be A Witness

Wendall Whalum

Witness for my Lord, my soul is a witness for my Lord. Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord. You read in the Bible and you understand, Methuselah was the oldest man. He lived nine hundred and sixty-nine. He died and went to heaven, Lord, in due time. Oh Methuselah was a witness for my Lord. You read in the Bible and you understand that Samson was the strongest man. And Samson went out, it was at one time, and he killed about a thousand of the Philistine. Delilah fooled Samson we all know, for the Holy Bible tells us so. She shaved off his head just as clean as your hand and his strength become like a natural man. Oh, Samson was a witness for my Lord. Daniel was a Hebrew child, he went to pray to his God for a while. The king at once for Daniel did send, and he put him right down in the lion's den. God sent His angels the lion's for to keep, and Daniel laid down and he went to sleep, oh Lord. Daniel was a witness for my Lord. Who'll be a witness for my Lord?

Jack Cotterell, tenor

PSALTER LESSON

Rev. Meisenheimer

Psalms 146

(pages 581 & 582 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 392

Please meditate silently on the hymn and refrain from singing.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart

Morecambe

GOSPEL LESSON

Victoria Anderson

Mark 12:28-34

(page 49 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

“...And...”

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Phil Tom

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

Rev. King

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Meighan Corbett

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Greater Love

John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no one than this[:] than to lay down one's life for one's friends. His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the Name of the Lord Jesus; ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light! I beseech you Christians by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Nancy Wertsch, conductor

Brooke Collins, soprano, Jeremy Leung, baritone

†THE DOXOLOGY

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God. 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. Meisenheimer

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Matthew 5:4 Grief Support Group, which offers a safe, caring community for those grieving the loss of a spouse or partner.

†CLOSING HYMN 361

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

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

SENDING

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

✚BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Festival Overture on “Ein’ feste Burg”, Op. 31 (excerpt)

*Otto Nicolai
arr. Franz Liszt*

Christopher Creaghan, organist

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Rev. Charles King, Victoria Anderson & Rev. Phil Tom

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Adapted from Congregational Prayers, Psalm 112:6-7, and Psalm 146

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 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 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 to listen now.

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add communications@trcnyc.org 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!

DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit 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 for the complete schedule.

PARKING - 10/31/2021

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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