

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote and question:

“...[A]ging is not a reason for despair but a basis for hope, not a slow decay but a gradual maturing, not a fate to be undergone but a chance to be embraced..”

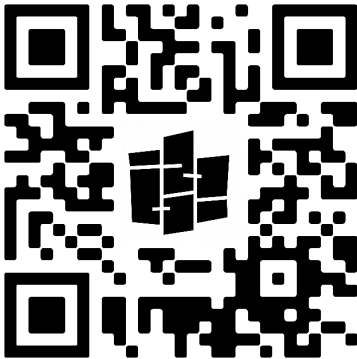
-Henri Nouwen, Aging: The Fulfillment of Life

A question for reflection:

One way I can embrace the sacredness of my own and others' aging is _____.

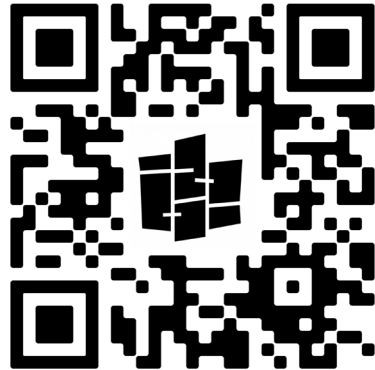
What's happening at Riverside?

You can find a printed calendar listed in the back of your bulletin!



Give by your phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035.



*Riverside worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online.
If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos we invite you to sit in the balcony.*



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Three Verses on Morning Has Broken
Four Verses on Simple Gifts

arr. Theophil Rusterholz
John Zundel, arr. Theophil Rusterholz
arr. Ennis Fruhauf
Traditional Shaker Tune, arr. Ennis Fruhauf

Carla Staffaroni, assistant carillonneur

ORGAN

Nocturne
Arioso (BWV 156)

Gabriel Fauré, arr. Virgil Fox¹
Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Virgil Fox

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Adriene Thorne

†CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: Gracious God, you are our strong refuge in whom we put our trust.

All: Let us sing your praises from the top of every hill.

One: With each new day, your new mercies embrace us.

All: Let us count the many days you have blessed us.

One: As we age from creation through maturity, your wondrous works
live through our words.

All: Let your wisdom fall fresh from this generation to the next.

†INVOCATION

¹Organist of the Riverside Church 1946-1965. Born May 3, 1912.

†*All who are able, please stand*

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 263
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Psalm 23

Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen.

†*All who are able, please stand*

LISTENING

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Reginald Jenkins

Daniel 7: 1, 9-10

(pg. 828 in the Old Testament)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

†HYMN

O God, In Whom All Life Begins²

Noel



1. O God in whom all life be-gins, who briths the seed to fruit,
2. U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3. Through tears and laugh - ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts combine to glo - ri - fy your Name.
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray;



de - liv - er us from numb-ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

²Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., © 1992, Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted and podcast under OneLicense net #A-717132

†All who are able, please stand

EPISTLE LESSON

Ernesta Sweeney

2 Timothy 1:1-14

(pg. 211 *in the New Testament*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God is Old

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Emogene B. Stamper

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands

John Rutter

O clap your hands together, all ye people: O sing unto God with the voice of melody. For the Lord is high, and to be feared: God is the great King upon all the earth. God shall subdue the people under us: and the nations under our feet. She shall choose out an heritage for us: even the worship of Jacob, who was loved. God is gone up with a merry noise: and the Lord with the sound of the trump. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God: O sing praises, sing praises unto our King. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. O clap your hands together, all ye people.

† AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY

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

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.

† *All who are able, please stand*

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Minister Nordia Bennett

Today we celebrate the ministry of Riverside's Tower League, a supportive, caring community of older adults that promotes the wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit as we age.

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

Following each petition, please join in the following responses:

One: God, in your mercy,

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, deliver us from evil.

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

CHORAL AMEN

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

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.**

✦ *All who are able, please stand*

SANCTUS



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



Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. 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!

For everyone worshipping online, visit trcnyc.org/communion to take communion together on Zoom.

SENDING

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

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

ORGAN

Larghetto Religioso

A. Von Ahn Carse

CHOIR

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. *(sung in Latin)*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Hylda Clarke

One: Ancient of Days, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

All: Consecrate our passing years that our experiences may turn into wisdom.

One: When we are tempted to worship at the "fountain of youth," call us back to your living waters.

All: Forgive us when we discount ourselves and others based on age, ability, or appearance.

One: From Generation to Generation, You are Our God.

All: Thank you for mentors, grandparents, and other sages who show us the way of love, faith, and justice.

One: Your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.

All: Help us to nurture Beloved Community by welcoming the gifts of people at every age and stage of life.

One: Rock of Ages, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

All: Help us to create a world where we all can live out our days with respect, security, and dignity. Amen.

†*All who are able, please stand*

† RECESSIONAL HYMN

Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain

St. Kevin



1. Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2. Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pri - son,
3. Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4. Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ri - sen;
With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:

Loosed from Pha - roah's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
But to - day a - mid the twelve you will stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.
Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Casteel Harper

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Alan Montgomery, organist

Special thanks to our congregational leaders Reginald Jenkins, Ernesta Sweeney, Hylida Clarke, and Emogene B. Stamper.

Special thanks to our communion stewards: Elaine Goode, Zenobia Gray, Brad Jones, Linda Lewis, Patricia McClure, Monique Serres, Julian Wharton, and Rev. Geraldine Howard .

† All who are able, please stand

In celebration of Older Americans Month today's Riverside Church's worship service will highlight the vital presence and contributions of older persons in our congregation as well as spiritual aspects of aging. Members of Riverside's Older Adult Ministries will serve as lay leaders and communion servers. The scripture readings and sermon will lift up the prophet Daniel's description of God as "Ancient One" and the importance of the apostle Timothy's grandmother Lois. After the service, all are invited to continue the celebration with cake and punch in the South Hall.

Today's bulletin artwork is by painter **Monique Serres**. An active member of The Riverside Church, including the Tower League, Monique joined the church in 1990, but has been involved since 1971. A native of Port-au-Prince, Monique is a graduate of Fashion Institute of Technology and a life-member of the Art Students League. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries both in New York City and internationally, including West Side Arts Coalition, Cork gallery Lincoln Center, Hudson Guild Gallery, Marina Tsevetavaeva Museum, Moscow, Russia; Royal Canberra Show, Australia.

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, May 7

Fresh Start | 8:30 AM | Online

Seekers Book Study Small Group | 9:00 AM | 323 MLK & Online

Open Bible Study | 9:30 AM | 330 MLK

Beginner Biblical Hebrew I | 9:30 AM | 314 MLK & Online

Church Nursery Open | 10:30 AM

Limitless- Children & Youth Service | 10:30 AM | 9T

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM Prelude begins at 10:30 AM | Nave & Online

Virtual Coffee Hour | 12:30 PM | 318 MLK & Online

Coffee Hour | After Worship | Assembly Hall

Theatre of the Oppressed | 1:00 PM | Multipurpose Room

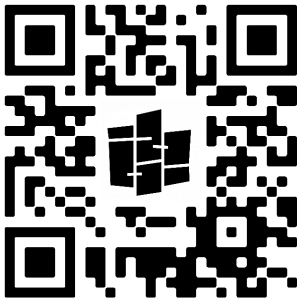
Riverside Strings Spring Concert and Luncheon | 1:00 PM | Assembly Hall

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew | 1:00 PM | 314 MLK & Online

Faith in Full Color: Faith Passage Confirmation | 1:00 PM | Youth Room

Holy Land Trip Prep Class | 1:00 PM | 411 MLK

Sunday Afternoon Carillon Recital | 3:00 PM



Visit trcnyc.org/LOC or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

Monday, May 8

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Tai Chi Class | 3:00 PM | Cloister Lounge

Tuesday, May 9

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Wednesday, May 10

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Beginner Biblical Hebrew II | 5:00 PM | Online

Young Adult Bible Study | 6:30 PM | 313 MLK & Online

Grace Notes | 7:00 PM | Online

Thursday, May 11

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Tower League- Banquet in Honor of Older Adults Month | 12:00 PM | Assembly Hall

Friday, May 12

Morning Prayer | 8:00 AM | Online

Saturday, May 13

Riverside BookClub | 11:00 AM | Online

COMING SOON

Sunday, May 21

Annual Meeting | After Worship | South Hall

Sunday, June 4

Queering the Gospel Workshop | 1:00 PM | Assembly Hall

Stacey Robinson's Music in the Air: The Story, The Journey | 3:00 PM | Assembly Hall

Sunday, June 18

Juneteenth Lunch and Learn | 1:00 PM | Assembly Hall

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Acts 11, Revelation 21, John 13.



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. Adriene Thorne, 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/loc for more information.

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!

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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 318 MLK to join us in person.

MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE

Membership is about you responding to God's call on your life to step up and belong to this community as you pursue the passion God has set in your heart. By joining The Riverside Church you are taking the next step to partner with us as we seek to cultivate a community of justice, peace, and love that transforms the world. Visit trcnyc.org/membership to find out more.

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

Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 PM 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.

CHURCH NURSERY

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM during worship staffed by trained nursery workers. For location please see an usher or security guard.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this coupon and your parking ticket to the attendant to receive this discounted rate.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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