



Welcome! – Riviera Church is an unapologetic progressive-thinking community in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are a family church where families come in all compositions.

We are a thinking church that wrestles with faith issues confronting our society today and strives to make our faith personally relevant and meaningful.

We are a mission-driven church that since the civil rights movement has worked for justice and peace for all of God's children.

In our worship, education, and mission, we strive that all will know they are loved unconditionally.

5275 Sunset Drive | Miami, FL 33143
rivierachurch.org
305-666-8586

Ministry Statement

We engage with each other in joyful worship and thoughtful education;

We dedicate our resources and talents to God's work;

And we open our hearts in active mission to others.

- We celebrate The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome at the table. Gluten-free option available.
- Child Care –infant through age five- is available. Our childcare attendant, Josephine, will greet you in the Welcome Area/Narthex.
- Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.
- Restrooms are accessible by the ramp in the sanctuary. Follow the signs. Changing tables are in both restrooms.
- We want to serve you. If you have a ministry need, don't hesitate to contact Congregational Care Committee Chair Karen at kc33134@aol.com. For prayer requests, please email bfah@me.com
- Riviera Presbyterian Church is a proud member of these organizations and a Matthew 25 congregation.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities." (www.pcusa.org/matthew25)

**Riviera Presbyterian Church
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024 at 11:00 am**

Please note that this service is broadcast via live stream and digitally recorded.

****Please stand in body or spirit***

PRELUDE #238 Thine Is The Glory

CHIMING OF THE HOUR



Please let us know you worshiped with us today by scanning this QR code and filling out our welcome form online or using the Welcome Pad on the aisle seat. If you are watching online, say “Hello” in the chat.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

One: Christ Is Risen

All: He is Risen Indeed

WELCOME

Rev. Melanie Marsh

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our star, the Sun, which gives light and warmth to the earth and all creation, rises this morning as it has every morning. But this is not like other mornings. Today we celebrate the rising of the one Son, who is above all creation and whose rising gives light to the world. Let us give thanks to God in prayer this Easter morning. Let us pray...

OPENING PRAYER

From the darkness of the grave Blood poured out, a crown of thorns. Christ the Lord is risen today.

ALL: Alleluia! Amen!

Walking from the empty tomb. Opening wide the gates of life, Christ the Lord is risen today.

ALL: Alleluia! Amen!

O God of life, You defeated death To show that we can rise from all that binds us to the world, pride, envy, anger, fear. The debt of sin that holds us here, Christ the Lord is risen today.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

O God of life, we give thanks for your presence this Easter Morning. As a light to those in darkness, as a Spirit of peace to those enslaved by fear, as a Spirit of love to those in need of comfort, God of love, God of peace, God of resurrection life be known through our lives and through your power Christ the Lord is risen today

ALL: Alleluia! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

#245 Christ The Lord Is Risen Today! (Vs. 1, 2, 4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Florez Family

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that blinds us,

The ignorance that hobbles us,

The doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, that we will

**Find courage in unlikely place,
See the world with new and gracious eyes,
Move to those places where love is needed,
Have faith that you are with us.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear this Good News: Christ has redeemed our brokenness!
We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving,
gracious, hopeful people of God. Not even death can keep us
from God's love. Believe this good news: In Jesus Christ we
are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

***GLORIA PATRI #583 Taizé Glory To God**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest!

Glory to God, Glory to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

TIME FOR ALL AGES

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

#240 Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks!



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-- Children 5 and under will go with Ms. Kathy.

– Children over 5 will go with Ms. Diana.

CHORAL ANTHEM

R. Hillert

Festival Canticle This is the Feast of Victory for Our God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathy Stults

Living God, this Good News is so wondrous, so magnificent, that we struggle to wrap our minds around it. Give our hearts the wisdom to receive that which our heads cannot fully understand. Send your Spirit to dwell within us, making known your resurrection promise. This we pray in your holy and good name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Melanie Marsh

HYMN OF RESPONSE #587 Celtic Alleluia

JOYS AND CONCERNS

If you are attending in person, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by raising your hand. A member of our worship team will bring the microphone to you. Remember to bring the microphone close to your mouth; do not hold it down by your chest.

Please remember to guard people's privacy and ensure you have their permission to use their full name when requesting prayers in this public format.

If you are watching on Zoom, we invite you to raise your hand and unmute yourself when your name is called. If you are watching our live stream or on-demand, you may enter your joys and concerns in the comments, and they will be sent to our active prayer group or email our prayer coordinator directly at bfah@me.com.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

O Lord our God, Creator and Ruler of the Universe.
The sun and moon and shining stars praise your name;
the fish of the deep, the creatures of the earth, and the birds
of the air glorify you.

Women and men, young and old give thanks, for you are our salvation.

We thank you for the beauty of this day, for another opportunity to stand in awe of your creation, especially on this most holy of days.

By the power of Your Spirit we are witness to these things:
that you raised up Jesus Christ from the dead
and exalted him at your right hand as Leader and Redeemer
of all Creation.

The risen Christ still surprises us with his presence, inviting us to follow him, to seek him not among the dead, but with the living, in your creation and among your people. He calls us to love him and to feed the sheep of his flock. Oh God, Nourish the bodies and souls of those in need this Easter morning. Where there is grief, turn our mourning into dancing, where this fear, comfort our hearts, where there is loneliness, anger, or doubt of your existence, send us out to shine your light into even the darkest places. We pray your comfort for all of those in our community who suffer with illness or loss, infirmity, or injury. We rejoice with those who give thanks for prayers answers, relationships restored, and hearts mended.

Especially we pray for [PRAYER REQUESTS]

Living God, through Jesus Christ you emptied the power of death and gave us the gift of life in fullness. Now dry our tears and send us out to tell the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Hear us now as we pray to you, as Christ your son taught us saying...

We appreciate the diverse traditions and backgrounds that make up the Riviera community of faith and encourage you to use whatever words for the Lord's prayer are meaningful for you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER unison

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

In gratitude to God for life, for love, and for abundant blessings, let us bring before God our tithes and offerings.

THE ACT OF GRATITUDE *The physical act of giving by placing your offering in the offering plate is a tangible act of gratitude. However, if your pledge is mailed or sent electronically, you may still participate in this act of gratitude by placing the envelope inside the bulletin into the offering plate to symbolize your gratitude and participation in the worship service.*



DIGITAL PAYMENT




Cash App **venmo**
 @rivierachurch5275
 # 305-666-8586

How You Can Give

ACH
 You may set up online payment via your bank bill pay program.

VANCO MOBILE
 You may download the free Vanco app (IOS & Android)

MAIL CHECK TO US
 Riviera Presbyterian Church 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

www.rivierachurch.org

OFFERTORY #236 The Strife Is O'er

*EASTER "ALL CREATURES" DOXOLOGY

ERHALT UNS, HERR



Praise_ God from_ whom all_ bless -ings flow. Praise God, all

Crea - tures here be - low. Praise God, a - bove_, |ye

Heav - en - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of generosity and love, in all things you provide for us. Help us in turn to provide for one another, supporting each other in every area of our lives. Help us to be your hands, your feet, and your heart in this world. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Melanie Marsh

***CLOSING HYMN #232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Melanie Marsh

POSTLUDE #246 Christ Is Alive


**Selected liturgy Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.*

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have gathered with us this Easter Sunday.

Following our worship service, we invite you to partake in fellowship time. Join us for refreshments, enjoy an Easter egg hunt, and capture cherished memories at our Easter photo station.

Your presence will add to the celebration of this special day.





Join us for a transformative class
designed to equip you with tools to
support others through loss and grief.

Mark your calendars for April 7th and
21st and May 5th and 19th. Classes
start at noon in the church library.

Let's learn to be beacons of comfort
together! See you there!

For information email Karen Collier
kc33134@aol.com



Christian Education for Adults:

On Sundays, we discuss the Bible scriptures for the day. Join us at 10:00 a.m. ET, in person, in the church library, or on Zoom.

Theology Uncorked: Join us for a discussion and fellowship on theology in the modern era on the second Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at UnSeen Creatures Brewery.

Women's Study Group: If you are interested in finding out more about the Women's Study Group, which meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm via Zoom, please reach out to Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com

Ukulele Ensemble: After worship, please speak to Walter if you are interested in joining the Ukulele Ensemble. We have ukuleles available to loan.

Bell Choir: If you wish to join the Bell Choir, please speak to Walter as well. The Bell Choir meets on the fifth Sunday after worship.

Earth Day is in the month of April, and as an Earth Care Congregation, we are honoring the earth throughout April and into May with Part 2 of our Season of Creation Worship Series.

If the series last fall was the intro class in exploring our call as caretakers of the earth, think of our Spring Season of Creation as Level 2. We will dig deeper, ask harder questions, and look for tangible ways that we can change our own lives to transform our relationship to creation for the better.

The most important thing you can do is join us for worship during this six-week worship series. It will be even better if you also invite your friends, families, and neighbors to join us!

There will be special guests, hands-on activities, engaging worship, and heart-opening conversation.

- **04/07 - People of Creation**
Butterfly Choir Sings, Creation Tree is unveiled, "Celebration of Creation" Community Meal
- **04/14 - Creatures of Creation**
Blessing of the Animals
- **04/21 - Waters of Creation**
Worship concludes with Water is Life panel discussion between **Dr. Tiffany Houston of Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Jenny Staletovich, reporter for WLRN.** Dr. Houston has done a lot of work around the affects of climate change on children's health, especially related to water quality and sea level rise.
Jenny Staletovich is an environmental reporter for WLRN in Miami and recently produced a podcast on the Everglades entitled "Bright Lit Place".
- **04/28 - Land of Creation**
Overtown Green Haven Project
- **05/05 - Air of Creation**
Taize Worship Service, Miami Sound Choir Musical Guests
- **05/12 - All of Creation**
Psalm Celebration

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Children's Response: #240 Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks! #22011 Contributors: Donald Fishel

Choral Anthem: Festival Canticle (Public Domain)

Sermon Response: #587 Celtic Alleluia (Public Domain)

Offertory: #236 The Strife is O'er (Public Domain)

Doxology: Easter Doxology (Based On All Creatures) (Public Domain) arr. By W. Busse

Closing Hymn: #232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (Public Domain)

Postlude: #246 Christ Is Alive (Public Domain)



Riviera Presbyterian Church – PCUSA
(A Vibrant Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)
5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143 | (305) 666-8586
rivierachurch@gmail.com | rivierachurch.org

Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

Ministers

Pastor

Director of Music

Certified Church Administrator

Church Bookkeeper

Nursery Caregiver

Sacred Space Caretaker

All the People

Rev. Melanie Marsh

Dr. Walter Busse

Barbara Prieto

Diana Florez

Josephine Gurri

Glenda Bertran

Session	Session	Session
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Laura Fothergill	Karen Collier	Amparo Hernandez
Rey Prieto	Susan Mazzola	Kathy Stults
Alejandra Rondon		Lisa Torchut
Butch Sorenson		
Cris Sweeny		