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| APRIL 2024



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 every month. All are welcome at the table. A gluten-free option is available.
- Child Care –infant through age five- is available. Our childcare attendant 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](mailto:kc33134@aol.com). For prayer requests, please email [bfah@me.com](mailto:bfah@me.com)



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS

- Riviera Presbyterian Church is a proud member of these organizations and a Matthew 25 congregation.



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](http://www.pcusa.org/matthew25))

**Riviera Presbyterian Church**  
**Season of Creation Series -Waters of Creation**  
**Water is Life**  
**April 21, 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**                      **Come to the Water**

**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.*

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

**WORDS SPOKEN BEFORE ALL OTHERS (Ohenten Kariwatenkwen)**

*Adapted from Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World of the Haudenosaunee Nation*

Leader: Today, we are gathered and called to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

**All: Let us give thanks for each other. Now our minds are one.**

Kyle – East - Reader 1: We greet our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. She continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we give thanks.

**All: Let us give thanks for Mother Earth. Now our minds are one.**

Butch – South - Reader 2: We send greetings and thanks to the Animal life of Creation. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

**All: Let us give thanks for our fellow creatures. Now our minds are one.**

Kathy – West - Reader 3: We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life, and we honor its power in every form. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

**All: Let us give thanks to the waters. Now our minds are one.**

Cindy – Pulpit - Reader 4: We are all thankful to the powers of the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. With one mind, we give our thanks to the Four Winds.

**All: Let us give thanks to the Four Winds. Now our minds are one.**

Leader: We turn our thoughts to the Creator and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here. For all the love that is around us, we gather our minds together as one and send the gratitude of our hearts to the Creator.

**All: Let us give thanks to God our Creator. Now our minds are one.**

*This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was developed, published in 1993, and provided, courtesy of: Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project All rights reserved.*

*Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World English version: John Stokes and Kanawahienton (David Benedict, Turtle Clan/Mohawk) Mohawk version: Rokwaho (Dan Thompson, Wolf Clan/Mohawk) Original inspiration: Tekaronianekon (Jake Swamp, Wolf Clan/Mohawk)*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

# Ho, All Who Thirst

## Come Now to the Water

479

Capo 3: (D) (A) (G) (Em7) (A)  
 Refrain F All C G $\flat$  Gm7 C

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the wa - ter, and

(D) (Bm) (G) (Em) (G) (A)  
 F Dm G $\flat$  Gm G $\flat$  C

all whose souls are parched and wea - ry, come and drink!

(D) (A) (G) (Em7) (A)  
 F C G $\flat$  Gm7 C

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the wa - ter, and

(D) (Bm) (G) (D) (A) (Dsus) (D)  
 F Dm G $\flat$  F C Fsus F *Fine*

from your heart will flow a nev - er - fail - ing spring!

(Bm) (A) (G) (Bm) (A)  
 Dm C B $\flat$  Dm C

*Leader or All*

1 Why for - sake the Lord, the fount of liv - ing wa - ter,  
 2 For the Lamb will be our shep - herd and will guide us  
 3 All who come may take this gift of liv - ing wa - ter.

(Bm) (C) (Bm) (A) (A7)  
 Dm E $\flat$  Dm C C7

*to Refrain*

choos - ing bro - ken cups that can - not be filled?  
 to the well - springs of the wa - ter of life.  
 They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled.

This song brings together many biblical references that help to enlarge an appreciation of the water of baptism. The refrain is based on Isaiah 55:1, stanza one adapts Jeremiah 2:13, stanza two draws on Revelation 7:17, and the third stanza condenses the imagery of John 4:10-14.

TEXT and MUSIC: Alexander M. Petts, 1997  
 Text and Music © 1997 Alexander M. Petts

JACOB'S WELL  
 5.7.5.5 with refrain

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Cindy Hershey**

When we confess our sins, God is faithful and merciful - forgiving our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess together our brokenness.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, You created us, and called your creation very good. Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take our home, this Earth, for granted. Our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.**

**Forgive us when we put our own interests first. Forgive us when we exploit your creation, and consume more than our share.**

**Open our ears to your teachings of justice for your people and care for your world. Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.**

**Free us from the greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others. Help us to remember that in caring for Creation, we are bringing your beloved kingdom closer day by day. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Beloved, hear this good news: God has already forgiven us, and is working even now to restore us to wholeness. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

## **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**

*After a Time For All Ages, children are invited to follow Ms. Simonette and the Sunday School Teachers for activities.*

*There is an activity table if your child is more comfortable staying in the sanctuary.*

**CHILDREN'S RESPONSE**

**#240 Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks!**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to God's name!

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**CHORAL ANTHEM      Water of Life      W. Busse**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds that as the words of scripture are read, we might be transformed. Through our transformation may you guide us. As you guide us, may we work to change the world. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING      Psalm 65:5-12**

God, our Deliverer, All the ends of the earth, and the farthest seas put their trust in you. You set the mountains in place by your power, Having armed yourself with might. You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of the waves, and the tumult of the peoples. Those who dwell at the ends of the



earth stand in awe of your marvels, you make the sunrise and sunset shout for joy! You nourish and water the land - greatly you enrich it. The streams of God are full of water; You provide us with grain as you ordained. Thus have you prepared the land: Drenching its furrows, Breaking up its clods, softening it with showers, Blessing its yield. You have crowned the year with your bounty and your paths overflow with rich harvest. The untilled meadows overflow with abundance, and rejoicing clothes the hills.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION    *Reciprocity*    Rev. Melanie Marsh**

## **HYMN OF RESPONSE #587 Celtic Alleluia**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*If you are attending in person, we invite you to raise your hand to share your joys and concerns. 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](mailto:bfah@me.com).*

## **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

*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**

As God calls forth bounty from creation all around us, so God calls us to give abundantly in return for God's many gifts to us. Let us bring to 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](http://www.rivierachurch.org)

## OFFERTORY

**#475 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

**\*EASTER DOXOLOGY** (Based on #15 All Creatures)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

***Sing Praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu - ia!***

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All that we have we give to you O God**

**All that we are we give to you O God**

**All that we will be we give to you O God**

**May all of these gifts be a blessing to others. Amen**

## **“Water is Life”**

*A conversation exploring and honoring our most precious natural resource.*



**Jenny Staletovich** has been a journalist working in Florida for 30 years.

Before coming to WLRN, she covered the environment, climate change and hurricanes for the Miami Herald, and before that, reported for the Palm Beach Post. In 2023, she won a national Edward R. Murrow award for excellence in writing. She was also

awarded the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award for Distinguished Service to the First Amendment, the Green Eyeshades and the Sunshine State Awards. Jenny graduated from Smith College and lives in Miami, with her husband and their three children.



**Dr. Tiffani Houston** is currently an Assistant Professor in the Division of Internal-Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine. She also has roles in the Division of Hospital Medicine and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Her research examines the persistent environmental toxicants in South Florida and the effects on the microbiome of women in pregnancy and babies in utero. Dr.

Houston enjoys exploring the world with family and friends. She also loves to dance, play outside, and is an unapologetic Trekkie.

## **RESPONSE PRAYER**

**\*CLOSING HYMN#484**

**Out of Deep, Unordered Water**

**BENEDICTION**

Beloved, Go forth to stand in the beauty of God's Creation —  
Caring for the ones who cannot care for themselves  
Nourishing the hearts of young and old  
Cherishing God's creatures  
So that we might live in harmony  
with each other and the Earth  
Until everywhere is called Eden once again.  
Amen.

**POSTLUDE #476 Crashing Waters at Creation**

**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.**


**This coming Sunday, we will explore the Land.**

**04/28 - Land of Creation**

Our celebration of the Land will begin with a brief worship service here in our sanctuary at Riviera. We will hear from our friends at the Green Haven Project about their work providing food to our neighbors. After worship, we will travel together to their Overtown community garden for a fellowship meal, education, and gardening as we explore the practice of Generosity.

Come to worship dressed in your most comfortable gardening clothes! Remember your water, sunscreen or hat, gardening gloves, and bug repellent if you need it. All ages are welcome.

- **05/05 - Air of Creation**  
Taize Worship Service, Miami Sound Choir Musical Guests
- **05/12 - All of Creation**  
Psalm Celebration



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

Join us today after worship in the church library.

It's ok if you did not attend the first class; these classes are stand-alone themes.

Let's learn to be beacons of comfort together!

See you there!

For information email Karen Collier

[kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com)



If you would like to be a communion server for the upcoming months, please sign up via our website, [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org), or sign up using the form located on the back table. You must be an ordained deacon or elder.

# Season of Creation Series in pictures



The children were introduced to the **Tree of Creation**, a tribute to the endless possibilities of creation and our hopes and dreams for a future for a healthy earth.



Here is Lincoln, the recipient of a blessing during the worship service, The Blessing of the Animals.

In the first week of our Season of Creation Series, we touched upon ALL of creation; this past week, we blessed our animals, and this week, we will discuss Water. As stewards of this planet, it's imperative that we prioritize water conservation efforts. Let's be mindful of our consumption habits and strive to create a sustainable environment where clean water is abundant for everyone.

Below is a list of resources previously shared in The Spark that will help you delve into the Season of Creation. The complete list is in The Spark's *April issue*.

**Recommended Books: *Inflamed* by Rupa Murya and Raj Patel**

"This groundbreaking work illuminates the hidden relationships between our biological systems and the profound injustices of our political and economic systems."

***Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

"Kimmerer shows us that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world."

***Black Earth Wisdom* by Leah Penniman**

"A soulful collection of illuminating essays and interviews that explore Black people's spiritual and scientific connection to the land, waters, and climate"

**Recommended in Podcasts, documentaries & digital media**

**Bright Lit Place** - Podcast produced by Jenny Staletovich in partnership with WLRN (Bright Lit Place heads into the swamp to meet its first inhabitants, the scientists who study it and the warring sides struggling to find a way to heal and restore the Florida Everglades)

**Rotten** (Netflix Series) Season 2, Episode 4 "A Sweet Deal" (Behind the scenes look at big sugar's impact on the ecosystem in Florida and beyond)



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**Riviera Presbyterian Church – PCUSA**  
**(A Vibrant Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)**  
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Mission Statement

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

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Rev. Melanie Marsh
Director of Music	Dr. Walter Busse
Certified Church Administrator	Barbara Prieto
Church Bookkeeper	Diana Florez
Sacred Space Caretaker	Glenda Bertran
Child Care Provider	Simonette Gutierrez

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		