



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. A gluten-free option is available.
- Child Care –infant through age five- is available. Our childcare attendants will greet you in the Welcome Area/Narthex.
- Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.
- The restrooms are accessible by the ramp in the sanctuary. Follow the signs or ask for directions. 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)
- 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  
Sunday, October 27, 2024  
Reformation Sunday**

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

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

**PRELUDE #424 Out of the Depths (Psalm 130)**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**



*Please let us know you worshipped with us today by scanning this QR code, filling out our welcome form online, or sharing the Welcome Pad down the aisle. If you worship with us online, say “Hello” in the chat.*

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

Today is Reformation Sunday, the day in the church calendar when we, as Presbyterians, celebrate the tradition that grounds our faith. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Catholic priest Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, criticisms of the practices within the Catholic church, on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. On that day, the protestant - protest movement - of the Christian church began. We carry that tradition on today, and honor the journey, both the inspired and the imperfect, that have brought us to this point.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Across time and place, people of faith have gathered to praise God's holy name.

**All: As we seek to understand who we are, we praise God's holy name.**

One: May God teach us to be seekers in our worship and our daily lives.

**All: As we seek to understand who God is, we praise God's holy name.**

One: May God teach us to be curious about how God will be revealed to us.

**All: As we grow into who we will be, we praise God's holy name.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

**#275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (V. 1-4)**

*1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.*

*2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.*

*3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.*

*4 That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Kathy Stults**

Let us put aside our good works and remember that we do sin and fall short of the glory of God. May God be merciful to us as we confess together our brokenness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of All Creation, the demands of your righteousness are too hard for us to fulfill alone, so we rush off with this excuse and ignore your law. You forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more, and we abuse this freedom as if it were a license to selfishness, self-indulgence, and self-righteousness.**

**You give us the gift of grace, yet we make it cheap without serious repentance. We fail to see the power of your faithfulness. We are your people, but do we know you as our God? Forgive us, Holy One, the sins we know in our heart.**

**Save us, Merciful One, from the sins we hide.**

[SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN]

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, hear this good news: Our sins are forgiven. Through Christ, in death and resurrection, we have been restored and brought back to God's side. We may be known forever as children of God.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also, with you**

**GLORIA PATRI #581 Glory Be to the Father**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC RESPONSE #647 Give Thanks**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM All the Ends of the Earth**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING      Jeremiah 31:31-34**  
**A New Covenant**

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31-36

### True Disciples

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## SERMON

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #458 Thy Word** (Refrain only)

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*As we honor today the reformed tradition in which we practice our faith, let us join together in saying what we believe, using the affirmation of faith, adapted from the Brief Statement of Faith of the PCUSA, printed in our bulletin:*

One: In life and in death we belong to God.

**All: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

One: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

**All: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

One: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as our Redeemer, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit -

**All: We strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

One: With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **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 at [bfah@me.com](mailto:bfah@me.com).*

## **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

On this Reformation Sunday, we thank you for all those whom you have called to set about reforming your church. We thank you that you are still at work in the life of the church: reforming us, reshaping us, and remaking us in your image.

Today, O God, we lift up all those who are in the hospitals. Those at home with illnesses and recovering from treatments and/or surgeries. We pray for those in nursing homes and those who are homebound, and we pray for their families.

We especially hold in prayer all those whose names we share aloud and in the silence of our hearts:

[PRAYER REQUESTS]

Hear our prayers, O God, for our siblings around the world. We pray for those whose countries are torn by war. We pray for those living in poverty. We pray for those who have been affected by disasters near to home and far away. We pray for

our country as next week we vote for new leadership. May we put into action our love, care, and prayers for the world.

We pray for your church that we might be a beacon of hope in this world. May our open doors reflect your open arms to all. May our hands reach out to those in need and reflect your love for all. We pray all of these in the name of Christ, as he taught us to pray together, 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**

Let us now, with grateful hearts, give back to God from what God has generously given us as we 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.*



**How You Can Give**

**DIGITAL PAYMENT**

Cash App **venmo**

@rivierachurch5275  
# 305-666-8586

**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 #111 From Heaven Above**

**\*DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heav'nly host, Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy God, you are the one who gives all things in abundance. Help us to hold with open hands all that you have entrusted to us, that we might freely give of these gifts to all who need them, and may they be blessed to your service. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Butch Sorenson**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

### 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, ali.  
 MUSIC: Stralsund Erneuertten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN  
 14.14.4.7.8

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

**POSTLUDE #307 God of Grace and God of Glory**



Join us for a Haunting Night of Cinema and Live Music this evening!

Get ready to experience the iconic silent film *Nosferatu* like never before - with live improvised music that will send chills down your spine. Let the haunting melodies of the pipe organ and the otherworldly sounds of the Theremin transport you into the dark, eerie world of Count Orlok. Come for the film, stay for the thrills...if you dare!

## **ALL SAINTS' 2024**

November 1 is celebrated as All Saints' Day, a day for giving thanks for all the great saints of the faith. November 2 is traditionally observed as All Souls' Day, a day for giving thanks for the saints we have known and loved, our loved ones who have died. We combine the celebration and the commemoration on All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2024, the Sunday following these two important days.

If you would like specific names of loved ones who have died within this past year listed in the November 3 bulletin, please write their first and last names on the form below, place it in the offering plate, or email the church office by **Tuesday, October 29, 9:30 am – rivierachurch@gmail.com**

**Name of the person submitting (YOUR name, in case we need to ask you about spelling.)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Persons to be Remembered on All Saints' Sunday,  
November 3, 2024**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



Join us for a FREE Screening of Disney's Coco, Friday Nov. 1 @ 6pm  
Get ready for an evening of magic, music, and family fun! We're hosting a free screening of Coco followed by a Halloween Candy Swap - bring your leftover treats and trade for your favorites!  
Celebrate the season with a heartwarming story about family, memories, and following your dreams. Don't miss this perfect mix of Halloween fun and Día de los Muertos spirit!  
Bring friends, family, and your sweet tooth!

**Support Our 2025 Church Ministry Program**

As we prepare for a new year of ministry, we invite you to prayerfully consider filling out the 2025 pledge form. Your commitment helps us plan and grow programs that serve our congregation and community. Every gift—whether financial, time, or talent—makes a meaningful impact. Together, let's step into the new year with faith and purpose, trusting that God will do great things through our collective efforts. Thank you for being a part of this ministry! Forms are available on the back table or fill out online form on our website [www.rivierachurch.org/give](http://www.rivierachurch.org/give)

*Please Join Us!*

**2024 Community Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Service**

**Thanksgiving for  
God's Good Creation**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**Riviera Presbyterian Church**

**5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143**

*Hosted and Directed by*

*Cantor Rachelle Nelson and Dr. Walter Busse*

*Featuring local synagogues and churches singing and celebrating together!*

*ALL ARE WELCOME!!*

[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)

**Socktober 2024**

We are close to our goal of 500 pairs! Help us get there by the end of October. Remember you can shop online for white cotton socks and have them shipped to the church or bring them personally to the church. 100 more pairs to go!

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**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	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 Providers	Simonette Gutierrez
	Angie Waller

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