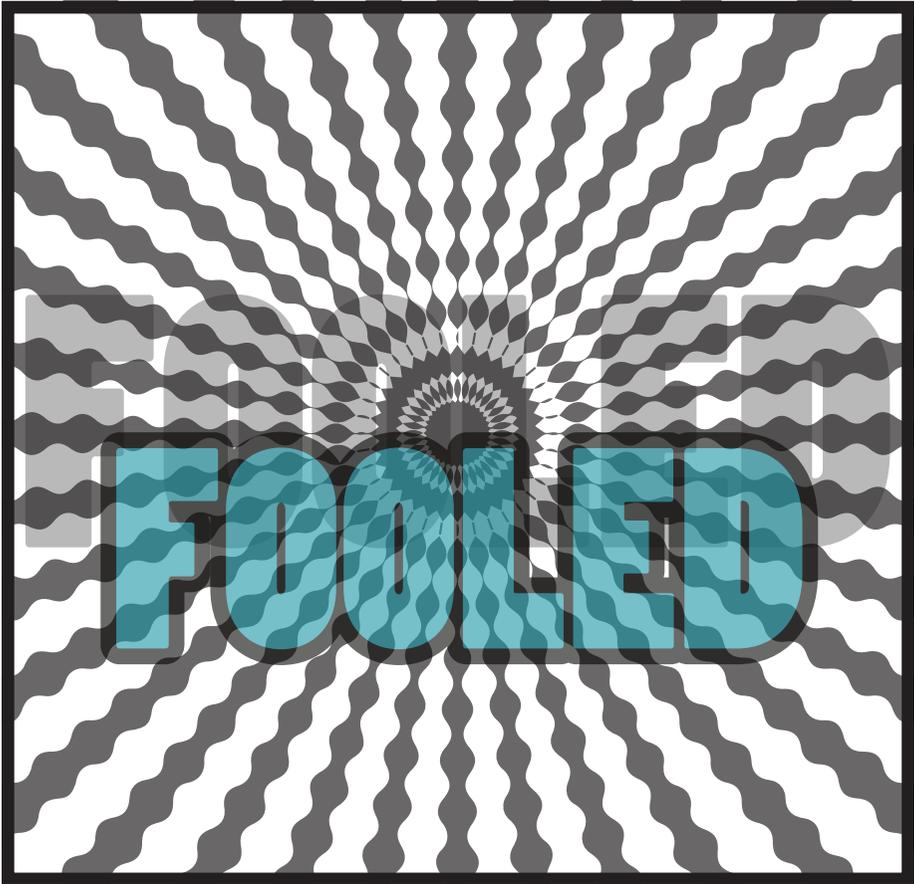


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



APRIL 29, 2018
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 yourself for Worship, we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

We are meant to be tangled up together. We are meant to live lives of profound interdependence, growing into, around, and out of each other. We cause pain and loss when we hold ourselves apart, because the fate of each individual branch affects the vine as a whole. In this metaphor, dependence is not a matter of personal morality or preference; it's a matter of life and death — branches that refuse to cling to the vine die.

– *Debie Thomas*

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Eastertide, a period of 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ until Pentecost. The liturgical color of Eastertide is white, which symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death, as signified by the paraments and clergy stoles.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

Complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in South Hall Lobby directly after Worship. As you leave the Nave, take a right and follow the hallway past Christ Chapel. Signs and greeters are available to provide direction. You'll find fair trade coffee from Javesca Coffee, a children's play area, a greeting area to learn about membership at Riverside, and indoor seating.

A church tour is offered each Sunday after Worship free of charge. Meet in the 1st balcony. Tours also take place on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. leaving from the Gift Shop. No reservations are necessary.

Assistive hearing devices and large print bulletins are available upon request from an usher.

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Meditation on Preludium in D.

Dionisio Lind, Carillonneur

Jef Denyn

ORGAN

Prelude on "Rhosymedre"

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine

*Cherub Choir
Sharon Pritchard, director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden zart

† CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 22

Minister Christian Peele

One: You, O God, are the source of all our praise
in the great congregation;
we will make our promises before those who fear God:
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall give praise.

**All: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over all.**

One: All who sleep in the earth shall bow down before God;
all who go down to the dust shall worship,
and I shall live for the Lord.

**All: Our children will serve our God;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
saying, "The Lord has done it!" Alleluia!**

† INVOCATION

† *All who are able, please stand*

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

Do Lord

Spiritual, arr. Ruth Artman

Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me, look away beyond the blue. I gotta home in glory land that outshines the sun, look away beyond the blue. Saint Peter will be waiting with a welcome just for me and angel songs will fill the air for all eternity. Oh that will be a joyful everlasting jubilee, look away beyond the blue. Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me, look away beyond the blue.

*The Rising Voices Choir
Matthew Hommez, director
Yuliya Basis, accompanist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rachel Johnson

**O God, our rock of refuge and our strong fortress,
lead us to your mercy;
guide us as we confess to you our sin.
You know our limitations and failures;
you have offered to cleanse us by your word:
Keep us from hurting others, causing needless conflict,
being impatient, making hasty judgments,
and forgetting all those who are struggling.
Cleanse us from all envy and false pride.
Let your face shine on us, O God;
save us in your steadfast love, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

David Jensen

Acts 8:26-40

(page 127 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Kate Sullivan

1 John 4:7-21

(page 241 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 314

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Bridegroom

†GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. R. Johnson

John 15:1-8

(page 109 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Bertram Johnson

Fooled by Comfort

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Livingston

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, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

CHORAL AMEN

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Minister Peele

†*All who are able, please stand*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

✠ 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.**

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Minister Peele

Today we celebrate the ministry of Pastor's Pub, where we come together in community, building relationships and exploring questions around theology, the Bible and the Christian faith.

SENDING

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

✠ BENEDICTION

Rev. B. Johnson

✠ RECESSIONAL HYMN 302

I Danced in the Morning

Simple Gifts

POSTLUDE

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet

✠ *All who are able, please stand*

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
David Jensen and Kate Sullivan*

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events in the church, please pick up the *Life of Our Community* bulletin located in the back of the pew or outside the Welcome Center. Or visit our website www.trcnyc.org.

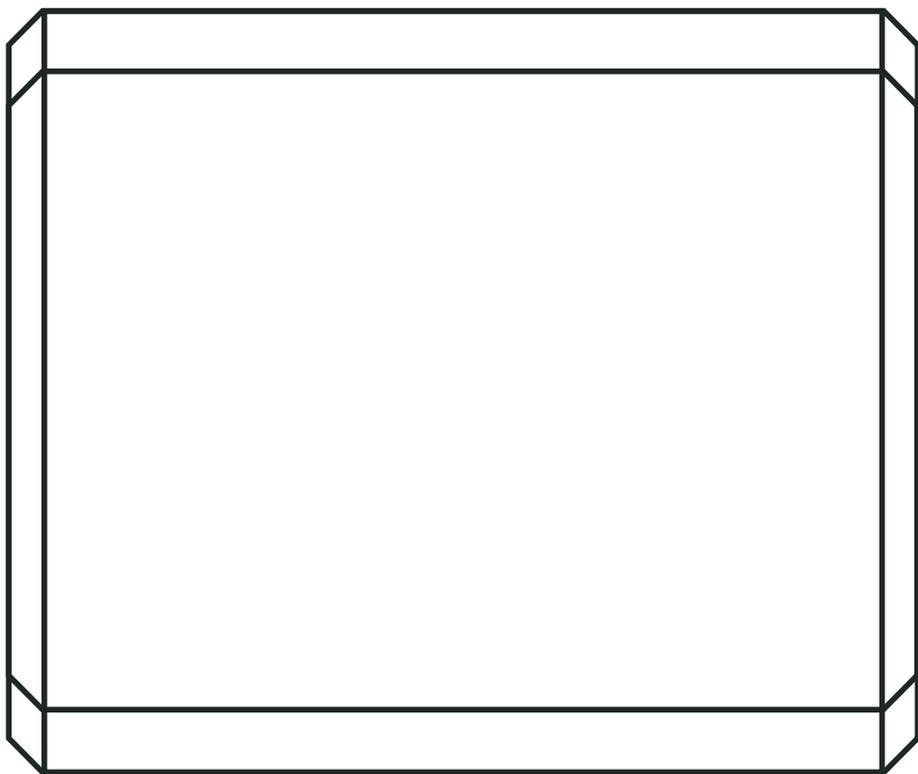


DRAW IT

1 John 4: 16 says, 'God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.' Abide means to live with or stay with. So when we love those around us, we actually feel even closer to God! Draw four people who you can show love to today. Think about how God feels when you love others. And how do you feel knowing how much God loves you?

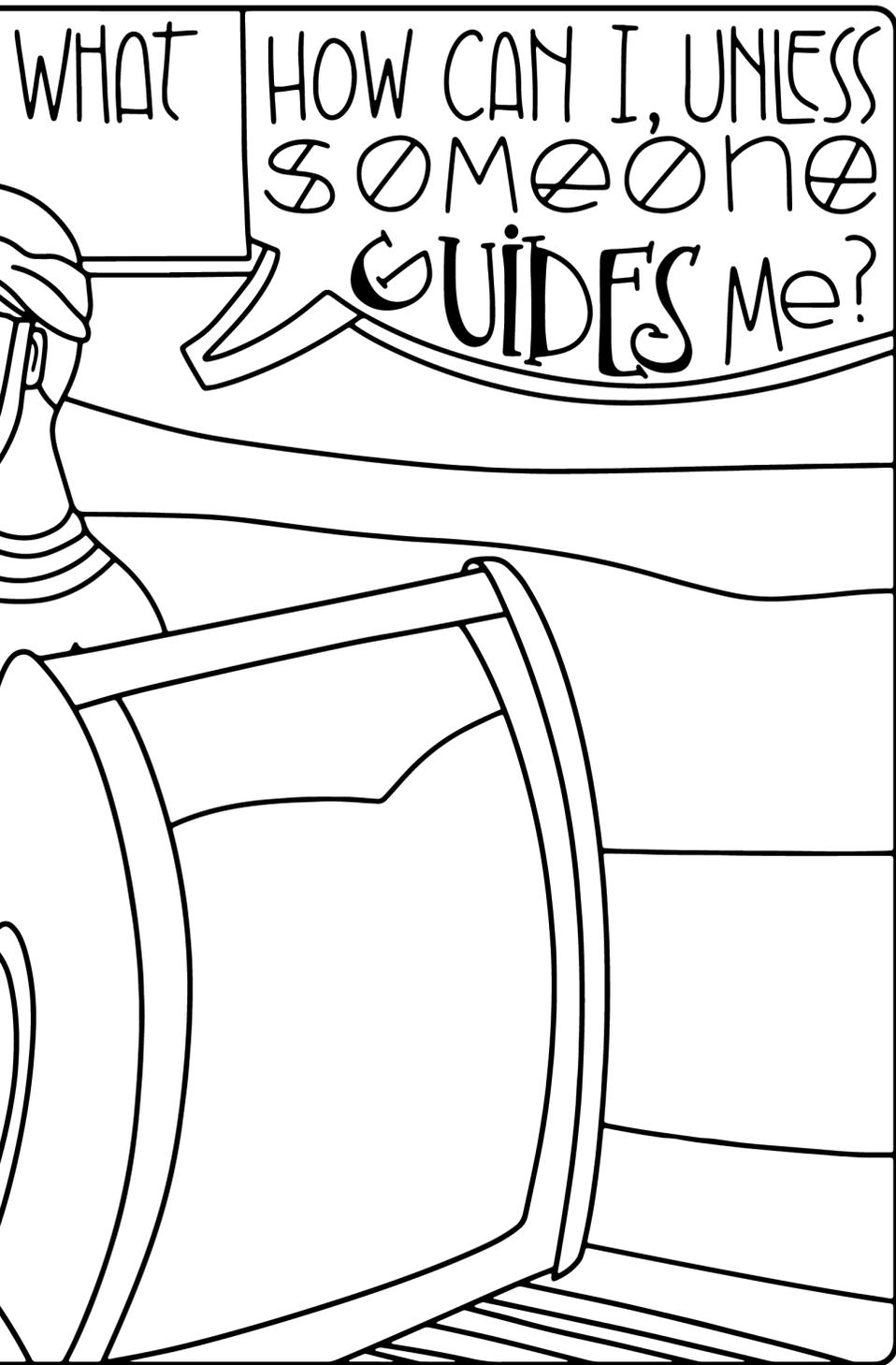
CREATIVE DRAWING

In Acts 8, Phillip meets a young man who really wants to learn more about Jesus. So Phillip tells him about Jesus, and then the young man wants to be baptized right away! And Phillip is the one to baptize him! Draw a picture of what it would look like for you to share your love for Jesus with someone in your life.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND
YOU ARE READING?





TALK WITH THE PREACHER

Read Pastor Amy's blog online at talkwiththepreacher.org.

Printed copies are also available in the Welcome Center/Gift Shop.

Pastor Amy is available for conversations with members by appointment.

Please email srminister@trcnyc.org or call 212-870-6775 to arrange an appointment.

CONNECT WITH RIVERSIDE'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Senior Minister's Office

Rev. Dr. Amy Butler

Senior Minister - abutler@trcnyc.org

Rev. Michael Livingston

Senior Executive Minister -
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

Rev. Dr. James Forbes

Senior Minister Emeritus

Communications

Rev. Rachel Johnson

Executive Minister of Communications -
rjohnson@trcnyc.org

Rev. Jim Keat

Associate Minister of Digital Strategy & Online
Engagement - jkeat@trcnyc.org

Faith Formation

Rev. Kevin Wright

Executive Minister of Programs -
kwright@trcnyc.org

Amanda Meisenheimer, MDiv

Associate Minister of Children and Families -
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Rev. Bruce Lamb

Interim Associate Minister of Youth and Young
Adults - blamb@trcnyc.org

Music

Christopher Johnson

Director of Music and Organist -
cjohnson@trcnyc.org

Christopher Creaghan

Associate Organist -
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

Parish Care

Rev. Debra Northern

Minister of Parish Care - dnorthern@trcnyc.org

Rev. Lynn Casteel-Harper

Associate for Parish Care - lharper@trcnyc.org

Social Justice

Rev. Bertram Johnson

Minister of Justice, Advocacy & Change -
bjohnson@trcnyc.org

Jade DeSaussure

Program Manager for Social Justice -
jdesaussure@trcnyc.org

Stewardship & Development

Min. Christian Peele

Executive Minister of Institutional
Advancement - cpeele@trcnyc.org

Farley Lord, MTS

Associate Minister of Stewardship &
Development - flord@trcnyc.org

Worship & the Arts

Rev. Ellen Robison

Minister of Worship & the Arts -
erobison@trcnyc.org

CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general
questions, call 212-870-6700 or email
communications@trcnyc.org.

For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory

The Riverside Church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ and cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York, and with the New York State, National, and World Council of Churches.



trcnyc.org

PARKING - 4/29/2018

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.



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK