

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 13, 2018

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASCENSION SUNDAY

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:

The God who existed before any religion counts on you to make known the oneness of the human family known and celebrated.

– *Desmond Tutu*

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 Motherless Child (spiritual)

Dionisio Lind, Carillonneur

arr. Leen 't Hart

PRELUDE

Allegro "Spring"

Antonio Vivaldi

Riverside Youth String Ensemble

Kristina Giles, director

Athena Wilkinson, violin

Charlotte Veenstra-Vanderweele, cello

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Abbot's Leigh

Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight.

Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,

Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,

Left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,

Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.

+All who are able, please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Bruce Lamb

One: One God, Father and Mother of us all, we come to worship you
as the gathered body of Christ.

All: Jesus asked that you might make us one as the two of you are one.

One: When the world would divide us into us and them,

All: We will stand together in love and harmony.

One: When voices are silenced and freedom oppressed,

All: We will speak for the voiceless and protest injustice.

One: When people are denied the basic human dignities of food, shelter,
medical care, jobs and education,

**All: We will share what we have and work for economic equality
for all people.**

One: One God, Father and Mother of us all, we come to worship you
as the gathered body of Christ.

All: Make us one in unity and love as we worship you today!

✚ INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

Glenn Burleigh

Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land. Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm. I would not be a sinner. I'll tell you the reason why. I'm afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn't be ready to die. I would not be a back slider. I'll tell you the reason why. I'm afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn't be ready to die. Has He ever made a way when you didn't have a dime? Has He ever stepped in just right on time? Has He ever picked you up when you were down? Has He ever placed your feet on solid ground? Then you know He is a Rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm. I'm a witness, He's a Rock of Ages in a weary land. He is a shelter in a time of storm.

*The Riverside Inspirational Choir
Nedra Olds-Neal, director
Matt Godfrey, piano*

✚ *All who are able, please stand*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister Christian Peele

Jesus, Son of God,

you prayed that your disciples might be one
as you are one with God.

But in the eyes of a suffering world we are splintered, we are divided,
and the witness of the good news seems to be shattered.

Yet it is not so. We are one in our resolve to be your hands,

your heart, your voice, your face to a world that is suffering.

Forgive us for failing to be one in purpose and generous in love.

May we today, demonstrate through our words and actions

our commitment to be one in you, in your world, for your people.

Hear now the confession of our hearts. (*silent prayer*) Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Jennifer Vazquez-Hili

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

(page 118 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Robin Veenstra-Vanderweele

1 John 5:9-13

(page 241 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

✠HYMN 440

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

✠GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Lamb

John 17:6-19

(page 111 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Livingston

Fooled by Loneliness

✠*All who are able, please stand*

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Ellen Robison

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, that brightens up the sky. The cold wind in the weather, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden - God made them every one. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

✠*All who are able, please stand*

✝ 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 work of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, which is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

SENDING

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

BLESSING OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN MARCHERS¹

Minister Peele, Rev. Lamb, Rev. Robison

✝ BENEDECTION

Rev. Livingston

✝ RECESSIONAL HYMN 108

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

POSTLUDE

Final, from Symphonie I

Louis Vierne

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Delivered at the Poor People's Campaign Rally for Action, Grace Lutheran Church, Evanston, March 22, 2018 by Rabbi Brant Rosen

Special thanks to our congregational leaders:

Jennifer Vazquez-Hili and Robin Veenstra-Vanderweele

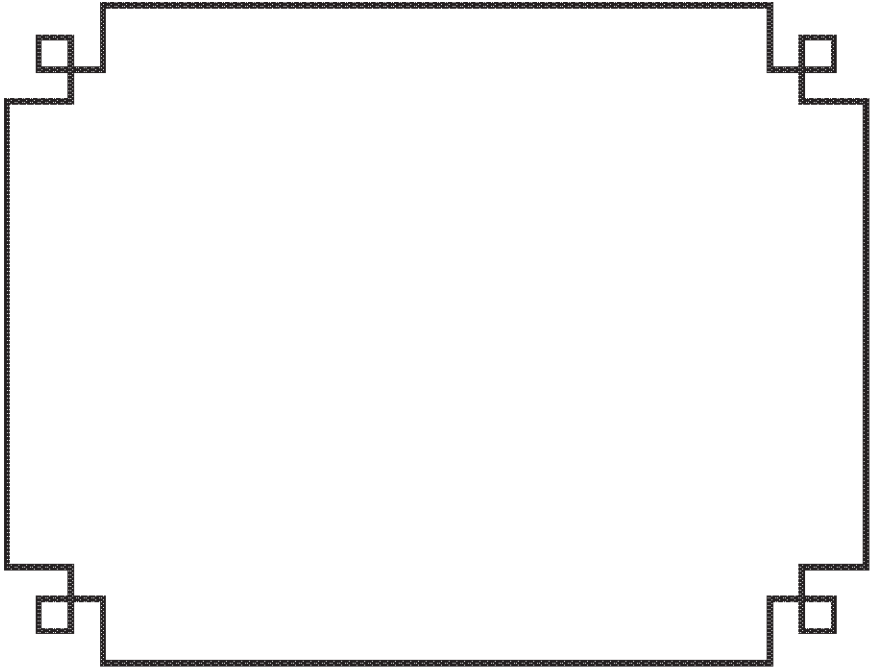
LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

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.

✝ *All who are able, please stand*



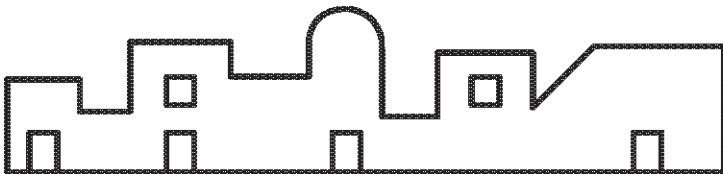
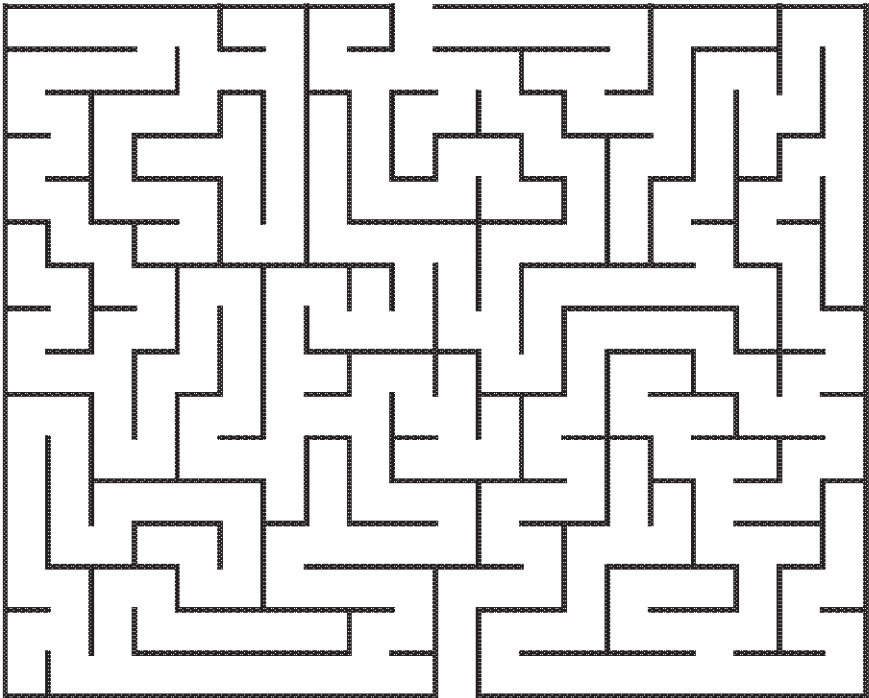
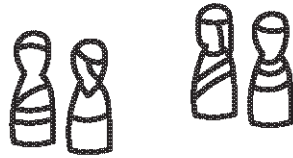
DRAW IT



In the story from Acts 1, the disciples pray and ask God for wisdom in choosing the next disciple. Judas was the disciple who left Jesus, and so they needed to replace him. The disciples feel that God calls them to choose a man named Matthias. Draw a picture of what you imagine Matthias looked like. And next to Matthias, draw a picture of yourself. You are one of Jesus' disciples too!

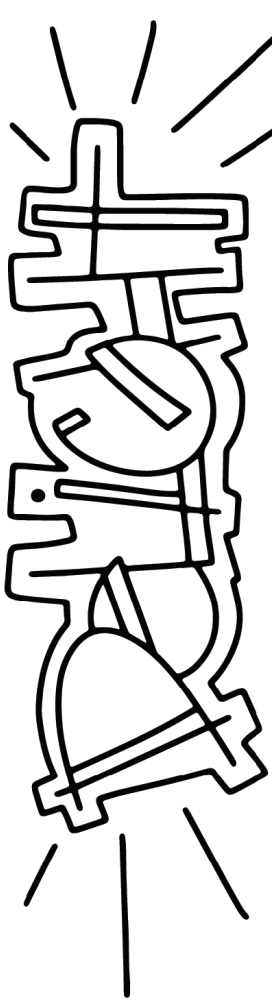
SOLVE (the) MAZE

When Jesus prays in John's story, he talks about how he is sending his disciples into the world. He is sending them to bless and help and bring God's good news. Help the disciples through the maze as they make their way into a world that needs good news!

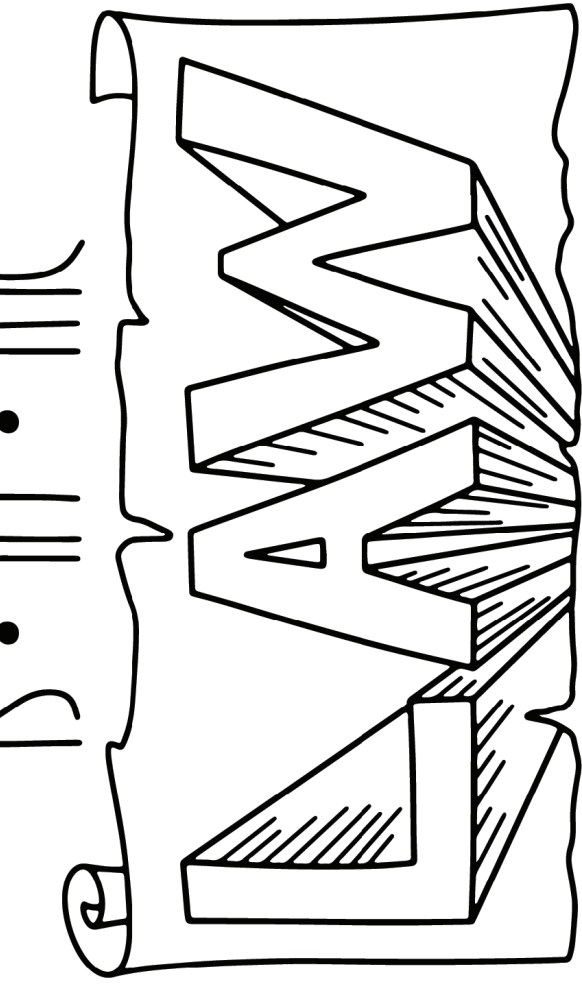


Joy
ARE

THOSE WHOSE



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LOK.

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.

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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 - 5/13/2018

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.



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