DEAR CHURCH...

Dear Church, over the next six weeks we will be exploring ways in which we, the church of Jesus Christ at 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, can grow together in faith and mission to the world. Together we will explore: who we are, who is welcome, how we love, what we do, how we fail, how we succeed, and why we’re here.

As Paul wrote to our partner church at Corinth, “You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

July 15

It’s Good to Be Us
Rev. Ellen Robison

July 22

What Do We Do When the Walls Fall Down?
Rev. Kevin Wright

July 29

Share the Love
Rev. Rachel Johnson

August 5

Week 4

Unity: Can We Do It?
Rev. Michael Livingston

August 12

Week 5

Time Out
Rev. Amy Butler

August 19

Week 6

It’s Time for Wise Living
Min. Christian Peele

August 26

Week 7

What’s the Point?
Rev. Amy Butler
GATHERING
We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

CARILLON
Meditation

Dionisio Lind, Carillonneur

ORGAN
Prelude on “Brother James’ Air”

Harold Darke

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
Rev. Michael Livingston

PROCESSIONAL HYMN
The Church’s One Foundation

Aurelia

All who are able, please stand
CALL TO WORSHIP
Amanda Meisenheimer

One: O God, you are the gathering one
All: who calls us into community with each other;
to love and work, to support and heal.

One: You are the gathering one
All: who calls us into community with all people;
to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

One: You are the gathering one
All: who calls us into community with the whole creation;
to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.
Let us worship the God who makes us one.

OPENING PRAYER

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

SOLO
When I Think Upon Thy Goodness
Franz Josef Haydn

When I think upon Thy goodness, and recall Thy tender care, then O God my heart rejoiceth how great Thy wonders are. For Thy love, it ever floweth, like the sea it hath no bound; and Thy truth is ever near us, for in Thee is comfort found.

Jake Roan, tenor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹
Minister Christian Peele

O God, our fears and prejudices run deep.
Sometimes we can only see our own point of view.
We stick with those who are like us,
rarely venturing outside our comfort zones.
We fail to hear those crying for justice and true peace.
Too often we blame those who are suffering and in need,
instead of standing by them.
We deny the power of your gospel to unite us with those who are different from us.
Lord, forgive us and give us eyes to see and ears to hear.
Open us to new possibilities of life for all of your people, and use us to enact the new life given in Christ.
Hear now the confessions of our hearts. (silent prayer) Amen.

All who are able, please stand
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

A TEACHING MOMENT

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
(page 281 in the Old Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

All who are able, please stand
It Is Well With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attends my way, when
And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the
sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, you have
clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trumpet shall sound, and the
taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
Lord shall descend: even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well with my soul.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 2:11-22

(page 192 in the New Testament)

One: So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

All: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

One: He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

All: So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.
One: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

All: In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Rev. Kevin Wright
Dear Church, What Do We Do When the Walls Fall Down?

RESPONDING
We respond to the hearing of God’s word through prayer, passing the peace, offering and monthly communion.

SILENT MEDITATION
A time for reflection, prayer and contemplation.

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.
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 SOLO
Simple Song from “Mass”
Leonard Bernstein
Sing God a simple song, Lauda, Laude. Make it up as you go along, Lauda, Laude. Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all. I will sing the Lord a new song to praise, to bless, to bless the Lord. I will sing God’s praises while I live all of my days. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord, blessed is the one who praises God. Lauda, Lauda, Laude. And walks in God’s ways. I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lauda, Laude. For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand. And the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord, Lauda, Lauda, Laude. And walks in God’s ways. Lauda, Lauda, Laude. Lauda, Lauda di da di day. All of my days.

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;

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION
Minister Peele
Today we celebrate the work of the Membership, Care & Parish Life Commission, whose many ministries and programs serve and support new members, long-term members, and anyone seeking to enrich their faith journey.

All who are able, please stand
SENDING
We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors

+BENEDICTION
Rev. Wright

+RECESSIONAL HYMN
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the ever
Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the ever
What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the ever

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
last-ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last-ing arms; I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

leaning on the ever-last-ing arms.
leaning on the ever-last-ing arms.
leaning on the ever-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, lean-ing,

safe and secure from all al-arms; Lean-ing,

leaning, leaning, leaning on the ever-last-ing arms.

POSTLUDE
Tuba Tune in D Major, Op. 15

C. S. Lang
**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.trcny.org.

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**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.

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**The Liturgical Year**

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

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**Liturgical Resources for Today:**

1. *Barbara Hedge-Goetti*

**Special thanks to our congregational leaders:**

*Abigail Johnson and Eugene Melino*
In Mark 6, the disciples are working hard as they help Jesus care for people. Jesus tells them, "Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile." Jesus himself rested, knowing how important rest is if we want to live well and do God's work. **Draw a picture of your favorite place to rest, and think about why rest is important for you.**
"For Christ is our peace... He has broken down the dividing wall between us."
- Ephesians 2:14
What does King David want to build for the Lord? Follow the path of letters, and each time you come to a capital letter, write that letter down at the bottom of the page. When you get to the end of the path, see what David wants to build.

In Mark 6, the disciples are working hard as they help Jesus care for people. Jesus tells them, “Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile.” Jesus himself rested, knowing how important rest is if we want to live well and do God’s work.

Draw a picture of your favorite place to rest, and think about why rest is important for you.
TALK WITH THE PREACHER

Read Pastor Amy’s blog online at talkwiththevizipreacher.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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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 - 7/22/2018

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.