Dear Church,
Dear Church...

Dear Church, over the next five 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
Andante religioso - Allegretto, from Sonata IV

Felix Mendelssohn

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other¹

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life we let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in God, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach living situations to do the truth in love; To hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, bring present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we who care for people, for all, not just for some, to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew ourselves accepted and meant to love and live, love them as we find them or as they may become, table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art. new us with your Spirit; God, free us, make us one!

+ All who are able, please stand
CALL TO WORSHIP

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

The Lord is My Shepherd

The Lord is my Shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. She shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for her Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me. Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

David Orcutt, baritone

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Life-giving God,
    together we confess that it is you who unites us in faith.
    Together we come to know the height, and the breadth
    and the depth of the love of Christ.
    Together we are to bear one another's burdens, comfort one another,
    pray for one another, and build up one another.
    Forgive us when we fail to serve you in this world.
    Root us and ground us in the power of your love.
    Hear now the confessions of our hearts. (silent prayer) Amen.
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Samuel 11:1-15
(page 284 in the Old Testament)

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

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

All who are able, please stand
There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the sea;
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most more than liberty. There is no place where earth’s wonder-fully kind.
If our love were but more sorrows are more felt than in God’s heav’n; There is faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word; And our no place where earth’s failings have such lives reflect thanks-giving for the kindly judgement giv’n.
good-ness of our God.

EPISTLE LESSON
Ephesians 3:14-21
(page 193 in the New Testament)

One: For this reason I [Paul], bow my knees before God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

All: I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God’s Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

One: I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

All: Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

+All who are able, please stand
SERMON

Dear Church, Share the Love

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

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

Rev. Robison

*All who are able, please stand*
OFFERTORY SOLO

Eternal Life Olive Dungan

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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 Rev. Robison

Today we celebrate the ministry of the the South Africa/Cuban Support Group, whose programs includes educational travel to South Africa and support for truth and reconciliation, trauma care, hospitality, housing and microloans as well as partnering with IFCO/Pastors for Peace for the work they do in Cuba.
SENDING

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

+BENEDICTION

Rev. Johnson

+RECESSIONAL HYMN

Take My Life

Hendon

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in
Take my intellect and use all its powers
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s community

ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
as you choose, all its powers as you choose.
munity, part of Christ’s community.

POSTLUDE

Allegro assai vivace, from Sonata I

Mendelssohn

†All who are able, please stand
**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. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132
2. Christianaid.org

**Special thanks to our congregational leaders:**

Rev. Dr. Malva Wise-White and Dr. Kurt Adams
John 6 tells the miraculous story of Jesus feeding thousands of people with a little boy’s lunch – five loaves of bread and two fish. There was even food left over! It’s an amazing reminder of how God can provide what we need when we don’t see any possible way.

In the first box, draw what you imagined this scene looked like as Jesus and his disciples fed the people.

In the second box, draw something God has provided or given to you this last week.

What did Jesus say to his disciples when they saw him walking on the water?

T I S I I.

ODN’T EB RAFDIA.

Doodle Idea: Draw a picture of someone you want to pray for.
What are they among so many people?

Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?
Six months' wages would not buy enough bread.

John 6:1-21
Ephesians 3 is a beautiful prayer, asking Christ to live in our hearts, rooting and grounding us in love. It can make us think of a tree. For a tree to grow well and be strong, its roots must grow deep. **Finish the picture of the tree.** Around and inside the tree, write words or draw pictures of things that remind you of God's love.
Ephesians 3 is a beautiful prayer, asking Christ to live in our hearts, rooting and grounding us in love. It can make us think of a tree. For a tree to grow well and be strong, its roots must grow deep. Finish the picture of the tree. Around and inside the tree, write words or draw pictures of things that remind you of God's love.
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:
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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.

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.