DEAR CHURCH...

Dear Church, we have been 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

Unity: Can We Do It?
Rev. Michael Livingston

August 12

Time Out
Rev. Amy Butler

August 19

It’s Time for Wise Living
Min. Christian Peele

August 26

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

CARILLON
Meditation

George Matthew, Guest Carillonneur

ORGAN: Two Selections from “Our Town”
Aaron Copland
Story of Our Town
The Resting-place on the Hill

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
Rev. Amy Butler

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 423
Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun
Duke Street

CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Aaron Rogers

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

†All who are able, please stand
LISTENING
We listen for the word of God through song, Scripture, and preaching

SOLO
At the River  
Trad., arr. Aaron Copland
Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels’ feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God. Yes, we’ll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river. Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God. Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease, soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes we’ll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river. Gather with the saints by the river, that flows by the throne of God.

Sidney Outlaw, baritone

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper
Holy and forgiving God,
We come to you as the body of Christ, united in heart and mind and purpose. Forgive us when we fail to be the people you call us to be. Strengthen the bonds of unity and encourage our community as we spread your love and justice throughout the world, so that all will look at your Church and say, “See how they love!”
Hear now the confessions of our hearts. (silent prayer) Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON  
Irene King
Joshua 24:1-25  
(page 215 in the Old 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

†HYMN 403  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
Converse

†All who are able, please stand
EPISTLE LESSON

Isaac Myers III

Ephesians 6:10-20
(page 195 in the New Testament)

One: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of the Lord’s power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

All: Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

One: With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

All: Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Butler

Dear Church, What’s the Point?

SILENT MEDITATION

A time for reflection, prayer and contemplation.

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Jim Keat

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

＋All who are able, please stand
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. Rogers

OFFERTORY SOLO²

Lord God of Abraham *Felix Mendelssohn*

Draw near, all ye people, come to me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
this day let it be known that Thou art God, and that I am Thy servant! Lord God
of Abraham! Oh show to all this people that I have done these things according to
Thy word. Oh hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and
Israel, oh hear me and answer me, and show this people that Thou art Lord God,
and let their hearts again be turned!

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. Rogers

Today we celebrate the ministry of Movies@Riverside, which shows thought provoking
movies on the last Sunday of each month, covering topics such as the environment and
political conflicts. These movies are meant to raise questions on themes related to social
justice and/or insight into the experiences of people whose stories are often unfamiliar.

All who are able, please stand
**SENDING**

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

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**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Butler

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**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Westminster Abbey

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**POSTLUDE**

Fugue in D Major

Felix Mendelssohn

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*All who are able, please stand*
**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.

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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. Christianaid.org
2. From the oratorio “Elijah”

Cover art image: Dear Church series Cover Art, Jamie Sinclair

Special thanks to our congregational leaders:

Irene King and Isaac Myers III
How beautiful is your house, O God" says Psalm 84.

Even though the person who wrote this was thinking of the temple, "God's house" can be a variety of things. Draw what you picture when you think of "God's house."

Try to find the words from Ephesians 6 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

| LORD | BREASTPLATE | HELMET |
| ARMOR | RIGHTEOUSNESS | SALVATION |
| STRUGGLE | SHOES | SWORD |
| STAND | PEACE | SPIRIT |
| BELT | SHIELD | PRAY |
| TRUTH | FAITH | PERSEVERE |
Happy are those who live in your house.

Happy are those whose strength is in you.
Happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Psalm 84
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

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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 - 8/26/2018

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.