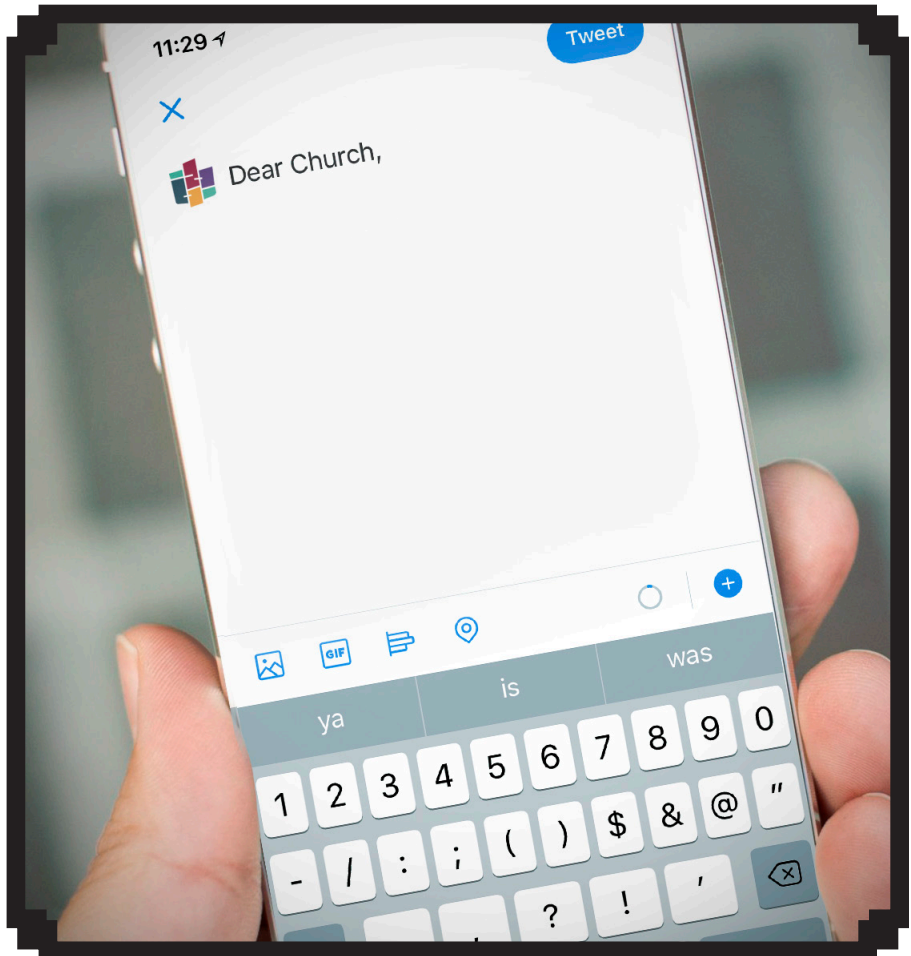


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



AUGUST 26, 2018
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

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 WORSHIP¹

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;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+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

+BENEDICTION

Rev. Butler

+RECESSIONAL HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Westminster Abbey



Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head___ and
To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God___ of
Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith___ they



cor - ner - stone, chos - en of our God and pre - cious,
Hosts, to - day! With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness
may at - tain peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion,



bind - ing all___ the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as___ they pray. Give your full - est
strength to com - fort those___ in pain, Tears and grief trans -



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Major

Felix Mendelssohn

+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.

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.

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.

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Christianaid.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

WORDSEARCH

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

T	I	M	S	A	N	O	D	E	I	A	D	H	N	Q
N	S	F	G	H	K	D	N	M	E	R	K	S	N	B
I	T	A	I	F	O	H	A	E	O	E	B	S	S	V
J	R	I	E	I	P	E	T	L	R	R	P	E	W	S
S	U	T	T	C	F	L	S	G	T	E	L	N	O	V
N	G	H	A	H	L	M	Q	K	A	V	W	S	R	J
Q	G	J	L	H	P	E	A	C	H	E	F	U	D	B
Y	L	L	P	G	N	T	E	V	T	S	W	O	R	S
N	E	Z	T	O	N	V	K	L	U	R	U	E	Q	Z
E	D	B	S	X	G	G	E	T	R	E	X	T	E	Q
H	L	L	A	U	M	B	I	G	T	P	D	H	Y	M
Q	P	W	E	K	D	R	D	I	U	Z	U	G	H	J
K	L	O	R	I	I	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N
B	O	X	B	P	H	O	R	O	M	R	A	R	V	O
C	D	L	S	O	O	S	F	Y	A	R	P	S	V	V

LORD

ARMOR

STRUGGLE

STAND

BELT

TRUTH

BREASTPLATE

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SHOES

PEACE

SHIELD

FAITH

HELMET

SALVATION

SWORD

SPIRIT

PRAY

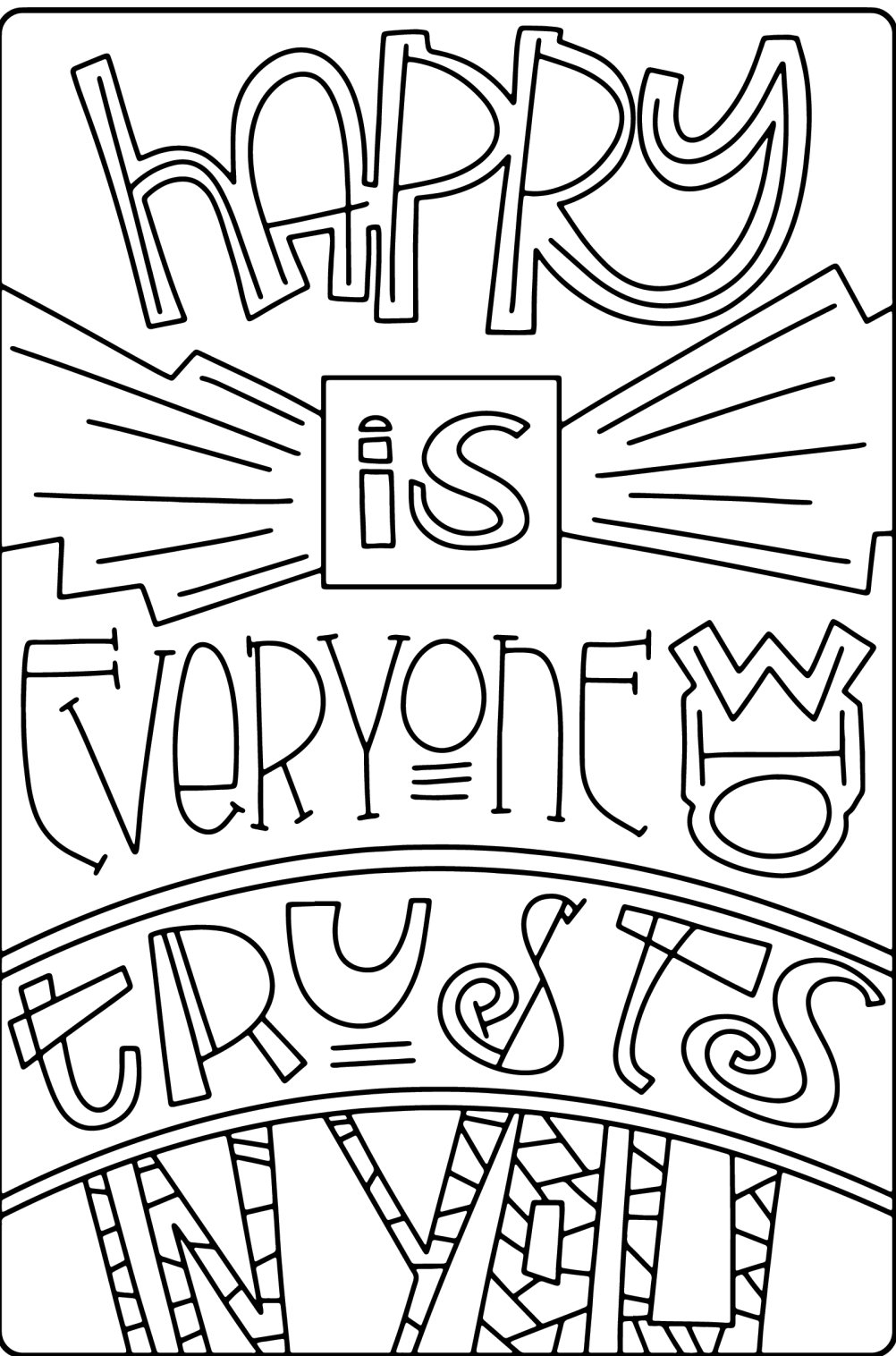
PERSEVERE

HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO
LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE.



HAPPY ARE THOSE WHOSE
STRENGTH IS IN YOU.





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

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 Minister of Older Adults -
lharp@trcnyc.org

Social Justice

Rev. 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

Rev. Aaron Rogers

Associate Minister of Stewardship &
Development - arogers@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 - 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.



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK