And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...
who has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
who has brought down the powerful
from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
who has filled the hungry with good things.
- Luke 1:46-53
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:

“Advent is the waiting season,
hoping to be rediscovered.
She is seasoned waiting,
wishing wisdom
and pregnant with promised life.
She is a season conceived each day.
– Joseph J. Juknialis

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 Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is signified by purple paraments and clergy stoles representing the sovereignty of Christ (except for Communion Sundays when the liturgical color is white). Each week we light a candle in the wreath on the Nave floor (mirrored in the hanging wreath above) for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

Healing Prayer, typically offered the first Sunday of every month immediately following Worship, is available today. Two of Riverside’s ministers will be at the front of the Nave to pray for anyone who desires it.

If This Is Your First Visit:

Complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

Join us for December’s Grateful Gathering in South Hall after Worship. Grateful Gatherings are fun, family-friendly opportunities to learn about the progress of Riverside’s Grateful Campaign, where we commit to give and serve as much as we can as an expression of gratitude for all that God has given us. The Grateful Gatherings involve food, music, games, and fellowship. As you leave the Nave, take a right and follow the hallway past Christ Chapel. Signs and greeters will help provide direction. Please enjoy free lunch with us during the Grateful Gathering.

A free church tour is offered each Sunday after Worship. Meet in the 1st balcony, no reservation necessary. Tours also take place Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as church schedule permits, leaving from the Welcome Center / Gift Shop. Reservations recommended. Visit trcny.org/visit.

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
Advent Fantasie

Charles Semowich, guest carillonneur

John Courter

RIVERSIDE YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE
“Rondeau” from the Abdelazer Suite

Henry Purcell

Kristina Giles, director

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
Rev. Amy Butler

PASSING OF THE PEACE
One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 17
“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Wachet auf

CALL TO WORSHIP from Luke 21
Rev. Ellen Robison
One: As we await the coming of the Christ Child, we look for signs. What is the sign that we see?
All: There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among nations confused by the roaring of the seas and the waves.
One: What will all this mean?
All: That the Son of Man is coming with great power and glory, to shine light in the darkness and to redeem God’s people. In hope of our redemption, let us worship God.

INVOCATION

All who are able, please stand
LISTENING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Victoria Anderson, Kevin Bentley, Derek Schwabe, Molly Williams

ANTHEM
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, whate’er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days. Who trusts in God’s unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

*Felix Mendelssohn*

The Riverside Choir

Riverside Youth String Ensemble

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON
Bernita Dorch

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*page 738 in the Old Testament*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER LESSON
Minister Derrick Jordan

Psalm 24

*page 502 in the Old Testament*

One: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

All: for the Lord has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

One: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in the Lord’s holy place?

All: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

One: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

All: Such is the company of those who seek God, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is the King of glory?

One: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is this King of glory?

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

All: Thanks be to God.

All who are able, please stand
HYMN 8
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

GOSPEL LESSON
(page 85 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON
God is in Control?

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE
Farley Lord

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Magnificat (Gloucester Service) Herbert Howells
My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with His arm; and hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He, remembering His mercy, hath holpen His servant Israel, as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and His seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL
The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.
O Come, thou Wisdom from on high; And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show; And help us in that way to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

All who are able, please stand
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION
Farley Lord

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Board of Ushers and Greeters who provide hospitality to all who enter The Riverside Church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Riverside Pastoral Staff

Following each petition, please join in the following responses:

One: Our God draws near.
All: Prepare the way of 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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE
Rev. Butler

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up unto the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All who are able, please stand
SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God, Ruler Almighty; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God.

Blessed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.

Holy, holy, holy in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.
All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!
One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.
All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!

A gluten-free option for communion bread is available upon request from a communion server.

All who are able, please stand
MUSIC AT COMMUNION

ORGAN
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)  
Johann Sebastian Bach
Nave  
Robert Hebble

CHOIR
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming  
Praetorius, arr. Wagner
Lo, how a rose e’er blooming of Jesse’s root has grown. A rose, by prophet’s singing, to all the world made known. The rose, ‘midst winter’s cold, a lonely blossom bearing, in former days, foretold. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night. It came, a flow’ret bright amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

HYMN 14
Savior of the Nations, Come  
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION  
Rev. Butler
God of hope you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love, and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN 6
Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending  
Helmsley

POSTLUDE
Toccata on Veni Emmanuel  
Adolphus Hailstork
Special thanks to our congregational leader:
Bernita Dorch

**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 trcnyc.org/events.
In Luke 21, Jesus talks to his disciples about how the world will change. "Heaven and earth will pass away," Jesus said, "but my words will not pass away." This reminds us that while things around us change, Jesus and his promises to us are always constant. **Draw** something that represents a promise of Jesus to you - maybe his love for you, his presence with you, the strength he gives you, or whatever is meaningful to you.
In the book of Malachi, who does God say will prepare the way before God?

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 is spelled out!

Try to find the words from Psalm 25 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 25 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

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

Lord  Covenant  Truth
Soul  Decree  Salvation
Trust  Humble  Mercy
Enemies  Upright  Steadfast
Teach  Instruct  Love
Paths  Faithfulness  Remember
O Lord, I lift up my soul to you,
Luke 1:46-50

Generations will call me blessed.
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.

Senior Minister’s Office & Executive Leadership Team
Rev. Dr. Amy Butler
Senior Minister
abutler@trcnyc.org

Rich Glassy
Executive Director of Operations
rglassy@trcnyc.org

Rev. Rachel Johnson
Executive Minister of Communications
rjohnson@trcnyc.org

Rev. Michael Livingston
Senior Executive Minister
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

Minister Christian Peele
Executive Minister of Institutional Advancement
cpeele@trcnyc.org

Pastoral and Program Staff
Christopher Creaghan
Associate Organist
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

Jade DeSauussure
Associate Director of Justice, Advocacy, & Change
jdesaussure@trcnyc.org

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper
Associate Minister of Older Adults
lharper@trcnyc.org

Christopher Johnson
Director of Music and Organist
cjohnson@trcnyc.org

Rev. Jim Keat
Associate Minister of Digital Strategy & Online Engagement
jkeat@trcnyc.org

Rev. Bruce Lamb
Minister of Faith Formation
blamb@trcnyc.org

Farley Lord
Associate Minister of Stewardship & Development
flord@trcnyc.org

Amanda Meisenheimer
Associate Minister of Children & Families
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Rev. Debra Northern
Minister of Parish Care
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

Rev. Ellen Robison
Minister of Worship & the Arts
erobison@trcnyc.org

Rev. Kevin VanHook
Minister of Justice, Advocacy, & Change
kvanhook@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 - 12/2/2018
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.