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:

God we confess that ours is still a world in which Herod seems to rule: the powerful are revered, the visions of the wise are ignored, the poor are afflicted, and the innocent are killed. You show us that salvation comes in the vulnerability of a child, yet we hunger for the “security of weapons and walls. You teach us that freedom comes in loving service, yet we trample on others in our efforts to be “free.” Forgive us, God, when we look to the palace instead of the stable, when we heed politicians more than prophets. Renew us with the spirit of Bethlehem, that we may be better prepared for your coming. Amen.

– Keith Watkins

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. 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.

If this is your first visit:

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

Join us for Coffee 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. Breakfast and lunch for purchase will be in South Hall.

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 trcnyc.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

Now Come, Our Savior

Don Cook

Charles Semowich, guest carillonneur

ORGAN

Prelude on “Divinum Mysterium”

David Johnson

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Amy Butler

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Psalm 42

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we await the coming of the Christ Child, we look for signs. What is the sign that we see?
All: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be laid low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain
One: What will all this mean?
All: When the Messiah comes, all that is wrong will be made right, and his light will shine with justice. Let us worship God who calls us to do great things.

† 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
Joanne Toran, Tasha Toran & Sonaya Toran

ANTHEM
Cry Out and Shout
Knut Nystedt
Cry out and shout, ye people of God! The Lord is strength and song! Therefore with joy shall ye draw water from the wells of salvation.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS  Rev. Michael Livingston & Anita Bryant
We welcome you with joy and friendship into the common life of The Riverside Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s love and grace and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON  Irwin Reese
Malachi 3:1-4
(page 889 in the Old Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON  Rev. Keat
Philippians 1:3-11
(page 196 in the New Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 282
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
Wer nur den lieben Gott

GOSPEL LESSON  Rev. Elizabeth Wheeler
Luke 3:1-6
(page 60 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

All who are able, please stand
God Rights Wrongs

RESPONDING

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

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.

CHORAL AMEN

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (from “Messiah”)
†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 Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION
Minister Peele

Today we celebrate the work of our entire Music Ministry, which provides beautiful music for all our services, concerts and events, bringing glory to God through music.

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

†BENEDICTION
Rev. Butler

†RECESSIONAL HYMN 426
Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak
Canonbury

POSTLUDE
Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel'
Andrew Carter
Christopher Creaghan, Associate Organist

The three images featured on the cover were created by Steve Prince, the Director of Engagement and Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary. The images are Faith Posture II: American Mama, Faith Posture III: Baghdad Mama, and Faith Posture I: Nigerian Mama © 2009 Steve Prince | Eyekons.

Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Irwin Reese and Rev. Elizabeth Wheeler

†All who are able, please stand
Isaiah 12 describes our relationship with God as a well from which we can draw water - what we need most in life, we receive from God. Finish the drawing of the well. Inside the well, draw or write some ways God has brought joy, strength, and hope to your life.
"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

- Philippians 4:6
Luke 3 tells us about John the Baptist. He lived out in the desert and talked about how Jesus would come and bring peace, justice, and love to the world.

In the first box, draw a picture of what you imagine John the Baptist looked like. In the second box, draw a picture of a situation in the world needing Jesus’ peace, justice, and love.

Try to find the words from Philippians 1 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.
Luke 1:54-55
ABOUT RIVERSIDE
The Riverside Church is an interdenominational, interracial, international, open, welcoming, and affirming church and congregation. The church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ. Riverside cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York and with the New York State, National, and World Council of Churches. Rev. Dr. Amy Butler is the seventh senior minister of the church and the first woman to serve in this position at the church. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

TALK WITH THE PREACHER
Read transcripts of Pastor Amy’s sermons online at trcnyc.org/sermons. Follow Pastor Amy on Twitter at @PastorAmyTRC.

Pastor Amy is available for conversations with members. Email SrMinister@trcnyc.org or call 212-870-6775 to arrange an appointment.

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please pick up the Life of the Community newsletter located in the back of the pew or outside the Welcome Center. Visit trcnyc.org/Events for more information and to download a copy.

PARKING - 12/16/2018
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.
**CONNECT WITH US.**

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*For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory*