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:

They watch for Christ who are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honoring him, who look for him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised, who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, if they found that he was coming at once... This then is to watch: to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again; to desire his second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first.

– John Henry Newman

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 Christmas, as signified by white altar pieces and clergy stoles, symbolizing joy in the light of day.

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 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
Concert Variations on “Angels We Have Heard On High” Richard von Grabow
Charles Semowich, guest carillonneur

ORGAN
Greensleeves Richard Purvis

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY Rev. Jim Keat

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49
Once in Royal David’s City Irby

†CALL TO WORSHIP1 Minister Christian Peele
 One: The year has thinned, the light seems weaker,
 The year is tired, and the season running out.
 All: Yet here we are in the place of life,
 for this place believes in things beyond time and season.
 One: We might live in the echo of stables and incarnation.
 holding onto faith in the year’s last days.
 All: Yet what do we do but perform acts of renewal and rebirth,
 of baptism and hope, of seeking new life shaped in Jesus Christ.
 One: So let us gather in what the world sees as the cusp of the year,
 yet we know as another day in the eternity of love.
 All: And celebrate who we are, and who we are yet to be.
 Come let us be together and worship.

†INVOCATION

†All who are able, please stand
LISTENING

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

SOLO
Maria’s Lullaby
Mary sits in the rosegrove and rocks her child Jesus, softly through the leaves blows the wind. At her feet sings a colorful little bird: Sleep, child, my sweet, just go to sleep! Lovely is your smile, lovely is your joy in slumber, lay your tired little head against your mother’s breast! Sleep, child, my sweet, just go to sleep!

Catherine Tyrrell, soprano

GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 1:39-45
(page 57 in the Old Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY
In My Heart There Rings a Melody: Part One

HYMN 48
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
Es Ist Ein’ Ros’

GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 2:8-20
(page 58 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY
In My Heart There Rings a Melody: Part Two

HYMN 29
Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Go Tell It

GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 2:25-35
(page 59 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

+All who are able, please stand
HOMILY

Rev. Kevin VanHook

In My Heart There Rings a Melody: Part Three

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. 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.

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

Minister Peele

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Nativity Carol

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; Born ‘neath light of star he who loved us so. Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

All who are able, please stand
†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
Minister Peele
Today we celebrate the ministry of the Theatre of the Oppressed, which uses interactive drama as an educational means of engaging and empowering participants to confront and address oppressive situations that challenge their everyday lives.

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

†BENEDICTION
Rev. Keat

†RECESSIONAL HYMN 28
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

POSTLUDE
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (BWV 729)

J. S. Bach

Liturgical Resources for Today:
1reWorship.com

Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Barbara Mellor and Clarence Anderson

†All who are able, please stand
CHRISTMAS FLOWER GIFTS 2018-19

Thank you to everyone who made generous contributions this year.
This is a partial list of donors and their honoree messages.

A complete list of all donors and honoree messages will appear in this space on December 30.

Contributions for flowers have been given by:

**Suzanne C. Carothers**
In memory of Mrs. Julia D. Carothers, Mrs. Lillian B. Alexander, Mrs. Effie Rodgers, Mrs. Shirley E. Massey, Mrs. Vivian Collins, Mr. Donald Grigsby, Mr. B.B. DeLaine, Dr. Ina King and Mr. Harold McQuilla.

**Christopher Creaghan**
   In memory of my father Dominic Creaghan.

**Ernest Jones**
   In memory of my nieces, LaGreta Williams, Carmen Jones and my nephew, Louis Collier, Jr.

**Aida Montero**
   In loving memory of Joseph Montero, beloved papa, father, and husband.
The light of your life keeps shining on us as we follow your examples of love.
In Luke 2, Jesus' parents are shocked to discover he was in the temple teaching all the rabbis and other adults. Jesus was only a twelve-year-old boy! Draw how you imagine this looked, and what Jesus was teaching about.
Colossians 3 says we are to wear compassion, kindness, patience, humility, and love as our clothes.

Connect the dots to form this new outfit! On the clothes, write or draw some ways you can show these qualities today.
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 - 12/30/2018
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.

Senior Minister's Office & Executive Leadership Team

Rev. Dr. Amy Butler  
Senior Minister  
abutler@trcnyc.org

Rich Glassey  
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

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