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:

Sing out my soul,
sing of the holiness of God:
who has delighted in a woman,
lifted up the poor,
satisfied the hungry,
given voice to the silent,
grounded the oppressor,
blessed the full-bellied
with emptiness,
and with the gift of tears
those who have never wept;
who has desired the darkness
of the womb,
and inhabited our flesh.
Sing of the longing of God,
sing out, my soul.

– Janet Morley

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
Three Advent Preludes
Geert D’hollander
I. Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers
II. There is a Voice in the Wilderness
III. Prepare the Way
Charles Semowich, Guest Carillonneur

ORGAN
Magnificat
Jean-François Dandrieu
Christopher Creaghan, Associate Organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
Rev. Amy Butler

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 11
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?
Valet will ich Dir geben

CALL TO WORSHIP
Minister Charlene Wingate
One: As we await the coming of the Christ Child, we look for signs.
What is the sign that we see?
All: John says, “I baptize you with water;
but the one who is more powerful than I is coming.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
One: What will all this mean?
All: That the Messiah is coming, and we are to prepare the way
of the Lord and make straight his paths.
Let us worship God as we welcome the coming Christ.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
The Gianas Family

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON
Zephaniah 3:14-20
(page 877 in the Old Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON
Philippians 4:4-7
(page 198 in the New Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

All who are able, please stand
HYMN 1
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 3:7-18
(page 60 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S PAGEANT
Where is the Good News: God Needs Me?
Matthew Hommez, Director, The Riverside Rising Voices Choir
Sharon Pritchard, Director, The Riverside Cherub Choir
Amanda Meisenheimer, Stage Direction and Original Script
Yuliya Basis, Pianist
Veronica Mittenzwei, Choreographer
Thomas Price, Set Designer

HYMN
Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers
Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

All who are able, please stand
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
Keep Your Lamps Spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children, don’t get weary ‘til your work is done. Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

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, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death’s cold shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

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

Today we celebrate the work of our Children’s Ministry, which provides a worshipful space for children to engage the stories of our faith through the lens of love and justice.

**SENDING**

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Butler

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 13**

*Prepare the Way*  
*Bereden väg för Herran*

**POSTLUDE**

*Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV 733)*  
*J. S. Bach*

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: Geoff Martin and Valerie Henning-Piedmonte*

*All who are able, please stand*
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.

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Philippians 1 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

THANK
GOD
REMEMBER
PrAYER
JOY
SHARE

LOVE
OVERFLOW
KNOWLEDGE
GOSPEL
CONFIDENT
WORK

COMPLETION
JESUS
HEART
GRACE
WITNESS
COMPASSION
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.

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!

Suggested for use on December 9, 2018 based on the RCL.

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

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.
Luke 1:51-53

God has filled the hungry with good things.

Luke 1:51-53
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 - 12/9/2018
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