

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

- from Psalm 51

MARCH 6, 2019

ASH WEDNESDAY

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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:

*I said to my soul, be still, and let the dark come upon you
Which shall be the darkness of God. As, in a theatre,
The lights are extinguished, for the scene to be changed
With a hollow rumble of wings, with a movement of darkness on darkness,
I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.
Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.*

- T. S. Eliot

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 Lent, a period of forty days leading to Easter marked by repentance and reflection on everything in our lives that separates us from God. The liturgical color of Lent is purple as signified by the paraments, wall hanging, and clergy stoles (excepting communion Sundays when clergy wear white stoles).

HOLY WEEK AT RIVERSIDE:

Wednesday, April 17 | Space for Grace on hiatus

Thursday, April 18 | Footwashing offered | 6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. | Christ Chapel

Thursday, April 18 | Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Service | 7:30 p.m. | Nave

Friday, April 19 | Good Friday Service | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Nave

Friday, April 19 | Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope | 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 20 | Holy Saturday Labyrinth Walk | 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | South Hall

Sunday, April 21 | Easter Sunday Service | 8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. | Nave

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

Complete a Welcome Card and hand it to an usher.

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 are available upon request from an usher.

CARILLON

Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Charles Semowich, guest carillonneur

arr. Don Cook

ORGAN

O World, Recall Your Great Sins (BWV 622)

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SILENCE

Rev. Amy Butler

SILENCE

POEM

“Will You Meet Us?”¹

Rev. Butler

✚ HYMN 77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

✚ CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 51

Rev. Kevin VanHook

One: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out our transgressions.

**All: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity,
and cleanse us from our sin.**

One: For we know our transgressions,
and our sin is ever before us.

**All: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach us wisdom in our secret heart.**

One: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within us.

**All: Restore to us the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in us a willing spirit.**

One: O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths will declare your praise.

**All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

✚ *All who are able, please stand*

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. VanHook

ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer

Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer in the morning when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer. Keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on earth is done and you come to take me home, just to know I'm bound for glory and to hear you say, "Well done!" Done with sin and sorrow. Have mercy. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Bruce Lamb

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
(page 846 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Rev. Ellen Robison

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
(page 181 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

+HYMN 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

+GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Jim Keat

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
(page 5 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

+All who are able, please stand

HOMILY

The Story of My Life

Rev. Butler

PRAYER AND SILENT CONFESSION

Riverside Pastoral Staff

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

POEM

Rev. Robison

“Blessing the Dust”²

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Rev. Butler

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

At the direction of the ushers, you will be invited to come forward and receive the imposition of the ashes.

MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ORGAN

Chorale Prelude on “Beautiful Savior”

Franklin D. Ashdown

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love

Paul F. Christiansen

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, that caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, that Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

LITANY OF RESPONSE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

Psalm 103:8-18

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God will not always accuse, nor will God keep God's anger forever.

All: The Lord remembers we are but dust.

One: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear the Lord;

All: The Lord remembers we are but dust.

One: As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

All: The Lord remembers we are but dust.

One: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear God. For God knows how we were made; God remembers that we are dust.

All: The Lord remembers we are but dust.

One: As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

All: The Lord remembers we are but dust.

One: But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear God, and God's righteousness to children's children, to those who keep the Lord's covenant and remember to do God's commandments.

All: The Lord remembers we are but dust. We turn our hearts toward God.

†HYMN 76

My Song Is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Butler

POSTLUDE

Hymn Prelude on "O Sacred Head"

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

†*All who are able, please stand*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Today is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent in the Christian year, the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* which means “spring.” Historically, Christians have used this season of Lent as a time of reflection, repentance, fasting and prayer as they follow Jesus’s journey to the cross.

In our Ash Wednesday service we remember our mortality and confess our sin before God with the imposition of ashes in the form of a cross on our forehead. Common phrases that are spoken during the imposition are, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” or “Repent and believe the Gospel.”

We wear the mark as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual condition. It is a symbol of our hearts, offered up to God, broken and contrite, yet redeemable in God’s mercy.

WORSHIP AT RIVERSIDE FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

Beginning with with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter Sunday, the season of Lent invites us to reflect on our individual and corporate lives as we journey with the people of God and follow Christ towards the cross and resurrection. Journey with Riverside on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for our weekly Lenten worship services. Visit trcnyc.org/WorshipSchedule to see the complete worship schedule.

LISTEN TO DAILY LENT DEVOTIONALS

Listen to daily Lenten audio reflections from Riverside clergy, congregants, and faith leaders from across the country on *Be Still and Go: Meditations for the Movement*. Visit trcnyc.org/BeStillAndGo to listen online and find out more.

VISIT THE PORTRAITS OF IMMIGRANTS EXHIBIT

Wednesday, March 6 | 6:00 pm | Cloister Lounge Gallery

Visit the Portraits of Immigrants exhibit during the season of Lent to see 16 portraits and stories captured by artist Betsy Ashton. Visit trcnyc.org/Lent2019 to find out more.

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Jan L. Richardson

LIFE OF THE 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.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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