The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

MARCH 1, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
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:

“Where are you willing to go? What are you willing to leave behind?”
- Rev. Kevin Van Hook

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).

Throughout the season of Lent we will be focusing on Close Encounters, exploring the ways that people encounter God in the lectionary texts and the ways we continue to have closer encounters with Christ in our world today.

Bulletin Cover Image: Sermon on the Mount, 2010 ©Laura James
Used with Permission laurajamesart.com

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.

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
Let Us Break Bread Together
Andrew Park, guest carillonneur

Four Lenten Hymns
Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN
Méditation, From Symphonie I
Jesus Christ, My Sure Defence
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
Charles-Marie Widor
Sigfried Karg-Elert
Dale Wood

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
Rev. Michael Livingston

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 87
The Glory of These Forty Days
Erhalt uns, Herr

CALL TO WORSHIP¹
One: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
All: We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.
One: Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,
All: We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.
One: In this time of reflection and repentance,
All: We affirm our identity, we claim our security,
as children of God.

INVOCATION

All who are able, please stand
LISTENING
We listen for the word of God through song, Scripture, and preaching

ANTHEM
Lord, I Approach Thy Mercy Seat
Alice Parker
Lord, I approach thy mercy-seat, where thou dost answer prayer; there humbly fall beneath thy feet for none doth perish there. Thy promise is my only plea; with this I venture nigh; thou callest burdened souls to thee, and such, O Lord, am I. Bowed down beneath a load of sin, by Satan sorely pressed, by war without and fear within, I come to thee for rest. Be thou my shield, my hiding place; that sheltered near thy side, I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him, thou hast died. (from Melodious Accord)

A MOMENT FOR LENT
Rev. Livingston

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
The minister offers words of confession, to which the congregation responds as follows:

One: Lord have mercy.
All: Christ have mercy.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 32²
Gary Alan

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice;
shout for joy, you upright in heart.
Jessica Marsten, cantor

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Rev. Livingston

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON
Gary Bogle

Genesis 12:1-4a
(pg. 10 in the Old Testament)
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

All who are able, please stand
HYMN 80
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

GOSPEL LESSON
Matthew 4:1-11
(pg. 3 in the New Testament)
One: This is the Gospel of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Rev. Kevin VanHook
“The Lands of Our Fathers”

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE
Sumati Devadutt & Rueben Martinez

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Kyrie from “Solemn Mass”
Louis Vierne

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
Farley Lord

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Riverside Pastoral Staff
Following each petition, please join in the following response:
One: Our Light and Savior,
All: hear our prayer.

All who are able, please stand
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. Livingston

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 our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God, Ruler Almighty;

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God.

Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

All who are able, please stand
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

ORGAN
Plainte, from ‘Suite Breve’
Ah, Jesus Christ With Us Abide

Jean Langlais
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

CHOIR
Ubi Caritas

Maurice Duruflé

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ’s love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

HYMN 85
What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

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

†RECESSIONAL HYMN 84
In the Cross of Christ I Glory

BENEDICTION
Please be seated.

POSTLUDE
Intermezzo, from Symphonie VI

Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Gary Bogle, Sumati Devadutt, Rueben Martinez, & Vanessa Murphy (crucifer)

Liturgical Resources for Today:
1Submitted by Gill Le Fevre to reWorship.com
2Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132
3Sung in ancient Greek
Matthew's Gospel tells the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the desert. He didn't eat any food during this time of prayer. The tempter tried to distract and tempt Jesus, but Jesus remembered Scripture and trusted God would help him be strong.

Draw something that helps you focus on God and good choices when you feel tempted.

Suggested for use on March 8, 2020 based on the RCL.
Matthew’s Gospel tells the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the desert. He didn’t eat any food during this time of prayer. The tempter tried to distract and tempt Jesus, but Jesus remembered Scripture and trusted God would help him be strong. **Draw something that helps you focus on God and good choices when you feel tempted.**
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. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST
Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder, add us to your “safe sender list,” or visit trcnyc.org/Email to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

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.

WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG
If you’re out of town or in need of more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship to watch the Sunday morning Livestream, videos of the sermon and the choirs, and more. Be sure to watch The Word Made Fresh, our weekly video Bible Study, and catch up on Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast.

PARKING - 03/01/2020
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.

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

Pastoral and Program Staff

Christopher Creaghan  
Associate Organist  
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

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

Rich Glassey  
Executive Director of Operations  
rglassey@trcnyc.org

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

Rev. Jim Keat  
Digital Minister  
jkeat@trcnyc.org

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

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

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

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

Carrie Quarqueso  
Coordinator for Worship & Arts  
cquarqueso@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

Trcnyc.org

The Riverside Church  
In the City of New York