The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

MARCH 15, 2020
THIRD 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:

“Jesus talks longer to the woman at the well than he does to anyone else in all the Gospels—longer than he talks to any of his disciples, longer than he talks to any of his accusers, longer than he talks to any of his own family. She is the first person he reveals himself to in the Gospel of John. She is the first outsider to guess who he is and tell others. She is the first evangelist, John tells us, and her testimony brings many to faith.”

-Barbara Brown Taylor

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

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
Aus der Tiefe rufe ich
To God, the Glory
Choral Variations, Harmony of Zion
Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN
Pange Lingua
Prelude in B Minor (BWV 544)

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
Rev. Michael Livingston

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 446
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

†CALL TO WORSHIP
One: O come, let us sing to our GOD; let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!
All: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving, singing
joyful songs of praise!
One: Our God is great, omnipotent above all others
All: From the depths of the earth to the heights of mountains, the
sea, and the land. Our God is the creator of it all.
One: O Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before
the Holy One, Our Maker!
All: Yes! God is our God, and we are God’s people. O that today we
would listen to God’s voice!

†All who are able, please stand
LISTENING

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

ANTHEM
I Must Tell Jesus
Mattie L. Robertson
I must tell Jesus all of my trials; I cannot bear these burdens alone. In my distress he kindly will help me; he ever loves and cares for his own. I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! I cannot bear my burdens alone. I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! Jesus can help me, Jesus alone. I must tell Jesus all of my troubles; He is a kind, compassionate friend. If I but ask him, he will deliver; make of my troubles quickly an end.

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 95²

O come and give thanks to the Lord; sing praise forevermore.

Copyright 1982 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Jessica Marsten, cantor

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

All who are able, please stand
HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

(\textit{pg. 64 in the Old Testament})

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

All: \textit{Thanks be to God.}

HYMN 510

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

\textit{Quebec}

GOSPEL LESSON

John 4:5-26

(\textit{pg. 94 in the New Testament})

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: \textit{Thanks be to God.}

SERMON

High Noon At The Well

PASTORAL PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: \textit{And with your spirit}

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: \textit{We lift them up unto the Lord.}

RESPONDING

\textit{We respond} to the hearing of God’s word through prayer, passing the peace, offering and monthly communion.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

\textit{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

\textit{All who are able, please stand.}
INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE  

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  

Wondrous Love  
traditional, arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw  

What wondrous love is this, O my soul. What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. When I was sinking down, O my soul. When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb, who is the great ‘I am’, while millions join the theme, I will sing. And when from death I’m free I’ll sing on. And when from death I’m free I’ll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I’ll sing on.

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 Min. Derrick Jordan  

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Matthew 5:4 Grief Support Group, which offers a safe, caring community for those grieving the loss of a spouse or partner.

SENDING  

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 281  

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  
Cwm Rhondda

BENEDICTION  

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE  

Fugue in B Minor (BWV 544)  
J. S. Bach

All who are able, please stand
Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Rev. Geraldine Howard & Bryant Harris

Liturgical Resources for Today:
1Based on Psalm 95
2Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132
In Genesis 12, God tells Abram and his family to leave home and go to a new place God would show them. This required a lot of trust! God promised Abram that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abram and his faithfulness. Draw a picture of what you think it looks like to be a blessing to someone else.

In Psalm 121, the Psalmist describes the mountains as a reminder of God - a source of help and strength. Finish the drawing of the mountain. Inside it, write or draw some things that remind you of God’s help and strength.

Psalm 95 tells us to sing, kneel, and make joyful noises with thankful hearts to praise God! Draw a picture of how you like to praise God.
In Genesis 12, God tells Abram and his family to leave home and go to a new place God would show them. This required a lot of trust! God promised Abram that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abram and his faithfulness.

Draw a picture of what you think it looks like to be a blessing to someone else.

In Psalm 121, the Psalmist describes the mountains as a reminder of God - a source of help and strength. Finish the drawing of the mountain. Inside it, write or draw some things that remind you of God's help and strength.

Suggested for use on March 15, 2020 based on the RCL. Copyright ©️ 2020 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for congregational use provided each copy carries this notice. illustratedministry.com

Activities based on Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42.

Psalm 95 tells us to sing, kneel, and make joyful noises with thankful hearts to praise God! Draw a picture of how you like to praise God.

HOPE does not DISSAPPOINT US
Draw a picture of someone you want to pray for.

In Exodus 17, God's people get angry at Moses because they don't have any water to drink. They’re not sure God will take care of them. What does Moses do as a sign to show God would provide?

Unscramble the words to find out!
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 - 03/15/2020
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 Quarquesso
Coordinator for Worship & Arts
cquarquesso@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