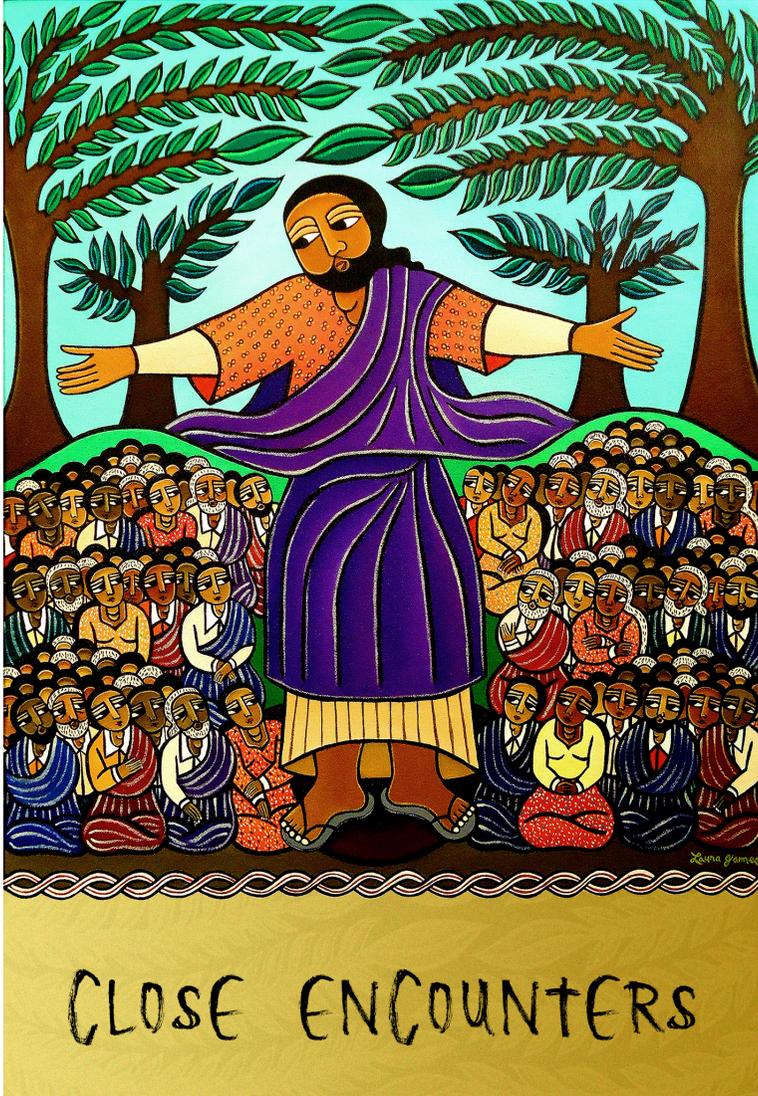


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MARCH 29, 2020
FIFTH 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 told this story of a rich man and a beggar because he wants us to know that there comes a time in every situation when it is too late to do better. This is not a story about hell. This is a story about lost opportunities to live life according to God’s will. Look at the rich man in this story. Being rich was not his sin, rather it was his opportunity. He did not end up in hell in this parable because he was rich, he ended up in hell because he passed up every opportunity to see things God’s way and to live his life accordingly.”

- Rev. Dr. Cleo LaRue

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
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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

ORGAN

Nancy Wertsch

Variations on 'Wondrous Love'

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: I waited patiently for the Lord; who inclined to me and heard my cry.

All: Out of my miry bog I was carried and placed on solid rock.

One: A new song of praise to our God is born, let us sing for all to hear!

All: Though we may see and fear in the midst of dismay, let us put our trust in You.

One: Be with us at this end of our Lenten journey, O God;

All: That at the foot of the cross we shall always remember the gift of your love.

One: Be with us at the end of our Lenten journey, O God;

All: that at the foot of the cross we might look up and understand the gift of your love.

OPENING HYMN 303

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Aberystwyth

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

INVOCATION

Rev. Kevin VanHook

LISTENING

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

A MOMENT FOR LENT

Rev. VanHook

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 51²

Hal H. Hopson

In you, O Lord, there is mer - cy.

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Jessica Marsten, cantor

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. VanHook

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Annah Heckman

Youth Ministry Field Education Intern

Isaiah 55:6-13

(pgs. 685 & 686 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER LESSON

Amanda Meisenhiemer

Psalms 40

(pgs. 513 & 514 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 276³

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *(Refrain)*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)*

GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Livingston

Luke 16:19-31

(pgs. 79 & 80 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Lost Opportunities

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Livingston

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

RESPONDING

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

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.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Jim Keat

OFFERTORY SOLO

I heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Charles A. E. Harriss

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live." I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light; look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk, till travelling days are done.

Jessica Marsten, soprano

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. VanHook

Today we celebrate the work of our Small Group Ministries, which provide educational and spiritual growth opportunities for people in our church and in the community.

SENDING

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

CLOSING HYMN 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Azmon

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Abertystwyth

David Bednall

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*Special thanks to our congregational leader:
Annah Heckman*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Based on Psalm 40

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³Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132

Cleophus J. LaRue, MDiv '90, PhD '96, Princeton Theological Seminary's Francis Landey Patton Professor of Homiletics, earned his BA and MA degrees from Baylor University, his MDiv and PhD degrees from Princeton Seminary.

He specializes in the theory and method of African American preaching and worship. An ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention of America, LaRue is the former pastor of two churches in Texas as well as the former interim pastor of churches in Harlem and Jamaica Queens, New York.

He is a frequent speaker at churches, seminaries, and conferences throughout the country and is a member of the Academy of Homiletics.



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.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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