

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MARCH 8, 2020
SECOND 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:

"To be commanded to love God at all, let alone in the wilderness, is like being commanded to be well when we are sick, to sing for joy when we are dying of thirst, to run when our legs are broken. But this is the first and great commandment nonetheless. Even in the wilderness - especially in the wilderness - you shall love him."

-Frederick Buechner

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

CARILLON

There is a Balm in Gilead
Life is Fleeting

arr. Charles Semowich
John Knox

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

HANDBELLS

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare
The Passion Prophecy

Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
Cathy Moklebust

The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN 488

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

+CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: Come! Walk with God to a new place where a new blessing awaits.
All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: Cast from your minds all thoughts of limitation and lack for the
LORD will make your name great.
All: Lord, we open ourselves to you. Direct our paths and open our
hearts and minds.

One: In this place, in every place,
All: For this time, for all time. Let us worship our God.

+INVOCATION

+All who are able, please stand

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

Surely the Lord Is in this Place

Herbert Colvin

Surely the Lord is in this place. This is none other than the House of God, and this is the gate of Heaven.

*The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director*

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 121²

Hal H. Hopson



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

Rev. Bruce Lamb

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

(pg. 2 in the Old Testament)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

+HYMN 341

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Assurance

+GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

(pg. 3 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Chira Bell

SERMON

Diana Butler Bass

The Real Temptation

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

+*All who are able, please stand*

CHORAL AMEN

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Lamb

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ah, Jesus Lord, Thy Love to Me

David Johnson

Ah, Jesus, Lord, thy love to me, no thought can reach, no tongue declare; O bind my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there. Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live, myself to thee entirely give. O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone; ah, may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown. All coldness from my heart remove: may ev'ry act, word, thought, be love. O Lord, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies; care, anguish, sorrow, melt away, where'er thy healing hands arise. O Jesus nothing may I see, and nothing seek, desire, but thee.

+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;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

+PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Minister Wingate

Today we celebrate the work of the Sojourners Ministry, which works with people currently held in detention centers in the U.S., while petitioning for asylum and providing support to those recently released.

SENDING

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

+RECESSATIONAL HYMN 371

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

BENEDICTION

Please be seated.

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccata in B Minor

Eugene Gigout

+All who are able, please stand

*Special thanks to our congregational leader:
Chira Bell*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Inspired by Genesis 12, Psalm 121 and https://www.ucc.org/lent_2_march_8*

²*Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717132*

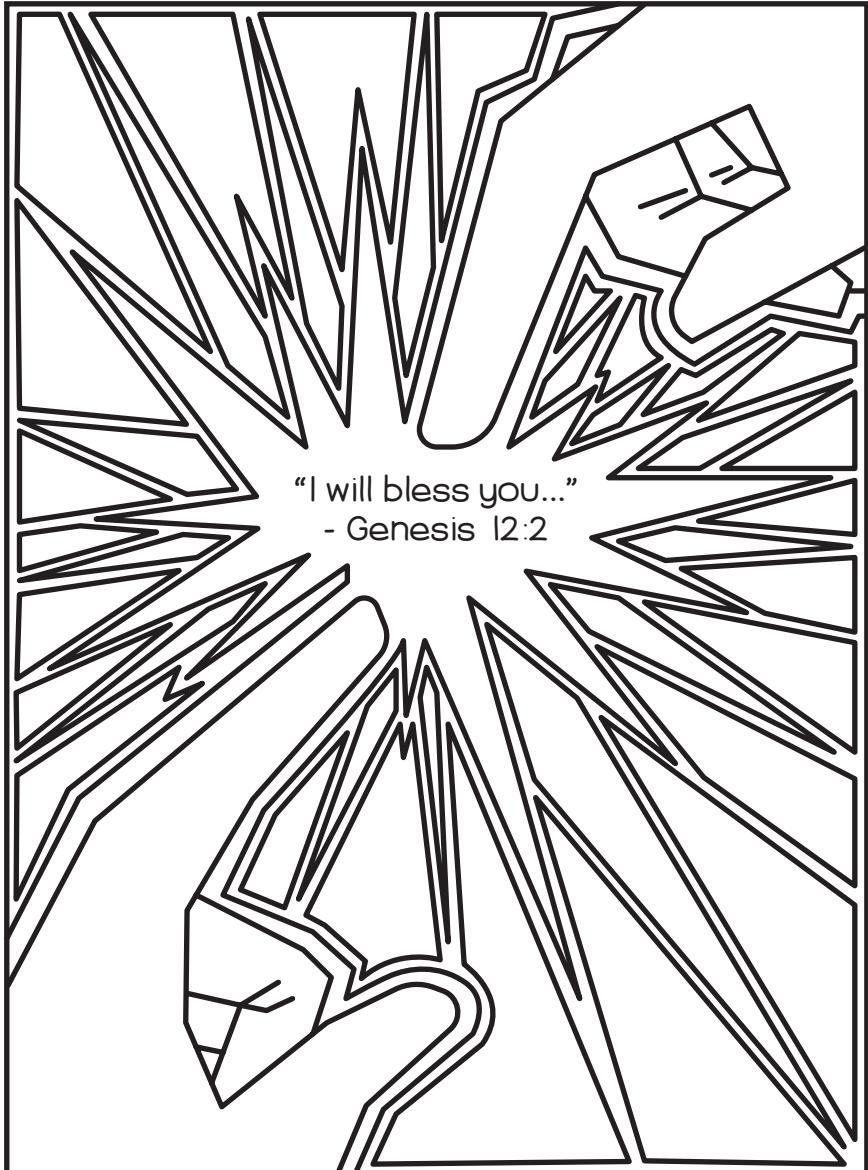
Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the award-winning author of ten books, including *Grounded: Finding God in the World —A Spiritual Revolution* (HarperOne, 2015), *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* (HarperOne, 2012) and *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* (HarperOne, 2006), and *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* (HarperOne, 2018).

She regularly speaks at conferences, consults with religious organizations, leads educational events, and teaches and preaches in a variety of venues in the United States and internationally. Her bylines include *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times Syndicate*, and *The Huffington Post*. She has commented widely on religion, politics, and culture widely in the media including USA TODAY, Time, Newsweek, CBS, CNN, FOX, PBS, NPR, Sirius XM, and CBC.

Diana Butler Bass is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including the Wilbur Award, the Nautilus Gold Medal, the Book of the Year from Religion News Service, and the Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize of the American Society of Church History. She holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from The General Theological Seminary in New York. She also serves on the board of Public Religion Research and is an advisor on the project for a National Museum of American Religion in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, Dr. Butler Bass has taught at Westmont College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, Macalester College, Rhodes College, and the Virginia Theological Seminary in subjects ranging from church history and American religious history to religion and politics, religion and race, and congregational studies. From 2002 to 2006, she was the Project Director of a national Lilly Endowment-funded study of mainline Protestant vitality—a project featured in Newsweek, USA TODAY, and the Los Angeles Times.





"I will bless you..."
- Genesis 12:2



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 [## **LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**](http://trcnyc.org>Email to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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 - 03/08/2020

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.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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