

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



SEPTEMBER 16, 2018  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

“When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old,  
I admire kind people.”

– *Abraham Joshua Heschel*

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For the next four weeks we will be exploring the wisdom found in the book of Proverbs as we launch a series entitled, “Living a Good Life.” We’ll take a look at what it means to maintain a good name and develop a good mind. We’ll cultivate the roots of being a good community, seek out what is a good cause, and encourage a good practice within our lives. We’ll also be asking you to share with us the best piece of wisdom you’ve ever received as we journey together on the way to living a good life. Join Pastor Amy on Sunday, September 30 for a Sermon Talk Back after worship at the front of the Nave.

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

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## IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

**Complete a Welcome Card** and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

**Join us for Fellowship Hour** in South Hall Lobby directly after Worship. As you leave the Nave, take a right and follow the hallway past Christ Chapel. Signs and greeters are available to provide direction. You’ll find fair trade coffee from Javesca Coffee, a children’s play area, a greeting area to learn about membership at Riverside, and indoor seating.

**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](http://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

Prelude and Fugue (BWV 998)

*J. S. Bach, arr. Peter Bremer*

*Charles Semowich, Guest Carillonneur*

### STRING ENSEMBLE

Canon in D

*J. Pachelbel*

*Riverside Youth String Ensemble*

*Kristina Giles, director*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Amy Butler

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

### † PROCESSIONAL HYMN 460

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

*Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich*

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kevin VanHook

One: Holy God, you call us to live a life worthy of the gospel.

**All: We come today seeking your wisdom for our lives.  
A wisdom that transcends both head and heart.**

One: You, O God, have shown us what is good,

**All: to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with you.  
Come let us worship in spirit and truth!**

### † INVOCATION

† *All who are able, please stand*

## LISTENING

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

### SOLO

Here's One

*Spiritual, arr. William Grant Still*

Talk about a child that do love Jesus, here's one, here's one. In ol' Satan's snares I once was fallin', but I heard the voice of my Lord callin'. Talk about a child that's been converted, here's one, here's one. Ever since I learned the gospel story, I've been walkin' up the path to glory.

*Irwin Reese, tenor*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

Rev. VanHook

**God of infinite mercy,**

**when we neglect to care for your creation  
and love your children, forgive us;**

**When we trade your peace and calls for unity  
for conflict and violence, forgive us;**

**When we forsake our good character,  
and strive only for fame and wealth, forgive us;**

**When we ignore your truth,  
and turn away from your wisdom, forgive us.**

**Forgive us and heal us, Lord,**

**that we may abide in your grace forever.**

**Hear now the confessions of our hearts. (silent prayer) Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Butler

Proverbs 1:20-33

One: Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

**All: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?**

**How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and**

**fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof;**

**I will pour out my thoughts to you;**

**I will make my words known to you.**

One: Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand

and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel

and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity;

**All: I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a**

**storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and**

**anguish come upon you.**

One: Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.  
Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord,  
would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they  
shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

**All: For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools  
destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure  
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”**

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

William M. Lewis Jr.

James 3:1-12

*(page 230 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## †HYMN 275

**God of Our Life**

*Sandon*

## †GOSPEL LESSON

Karen Diggs

Mark 8:27-38

*(page 43 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## VOICES OF WISDOM

### SERMON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Living a Good Life: A Good Mind

### SILENT MEDITATION

*A time for reflection, prayer and contemplation.*

### RESPONDING

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

†*All who are able, please stand*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Michael 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.**

## 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.**

## ✚PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Butler

## OFFERTORY SOLO

**I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free** *Billy Taylor & Dick Dallas*

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free. I wish I could break all the chains holding me. I wish I could say all the things that I should say, say 'em loud, say 'em clear, for the whole round world to hear. I wish I could share all the love that's in my heart. Remove all the bars that keep us apart. I wish you could know what it means to be me, then you'd see and agree that everyone should be free. I wish I could give all I'm longin' to give. I wish I could live like I'm longing to live. I wish I could do all the things that I can do. Though I'm way overdue, I'd be startin' anew. Well I wish I could be like a bird in the sky. How sweet it would be if I found I could fly. Oh I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea. Then I'd sing 'cause I know how it feels to be free. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, for I'd know how it feels to be free!

✚*All who are able, please stand*

✝ **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**

*Today we celebrate the work of our Small Group Ministry, which provides 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*

✝ **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Harper

✝ **RECESSIONAL HYMN 288**

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

*Ellacombe*

**POSTLUDE**

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus, Op. 78, No. 17

*Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

[Liturgical Resources for Today:](#)

<sup>1</sup>[Ministrymatters.com](http://Ministrymatters.com)

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:*

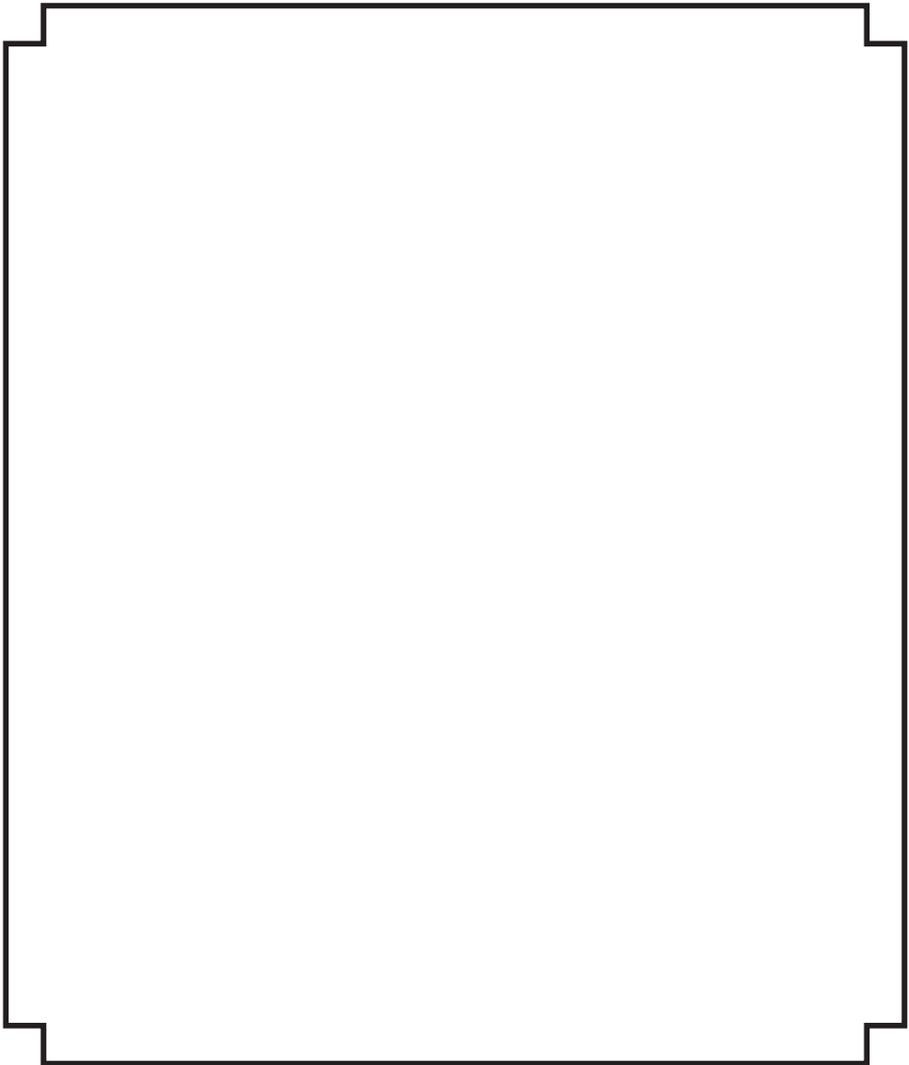
*William M. Lewis Jr. and Karen Diggs*

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**LIFE OF OUR 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](http://www.trcnyc.org).

✝ *All who are able, please stand*

 DRAW IT

To help us better understand "Wisdom," Proverbs 1 describes Wisdom as a person who takes action. "Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice." Draw a picture of what you think Wisdom looks like as she does this. Draw what you think Wisdom is saying to the people around her.



Let the

WORDS

of my

MOUTH

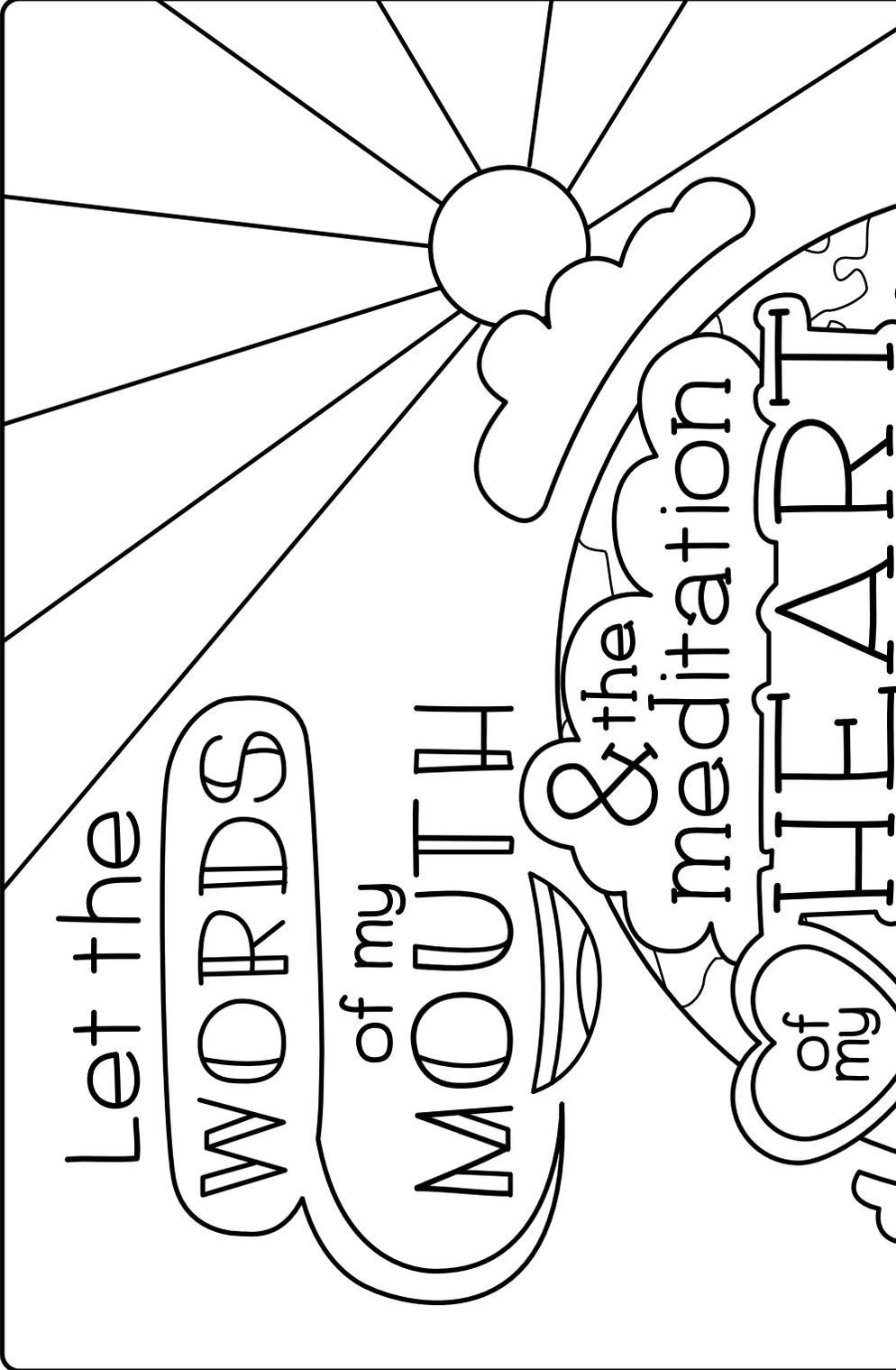


& the

meditation

of my

HEART



be acceptable  
to you,

O LORD,  
my ROCK &

REDEEMER.  
James 2:1-10

## TALK WITH THE PREACHER

Read Pastor Amy's blog online at [talkwiththepreacher.org](http://talkwiththepreacher.org).

Printed copies are also available in the Welcome Center/Gift Shop.

Pastor Amy is available for conversations with members by appointment.

Please email [srminister@trcnyc.org](mailto:srminister@trcnyc.org) or call 212-870-6775 to arrange an appointment.

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## CONNECT WITH RIVERSIDE'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

### Senior Minister's Office

#### Rev. Dr. Amy Butler

Senior Minister - [abutler@trcnyc.org](mailto:abutler@trcnyc.org)

#### Rev. Michael Livingston

Senior Executive Minister -

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#### Rev. Dr. James Forbes

Senior Minister Emeritus

### Communications

#### Rev. Rachel Johnson

Executive Minister of Communications -

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#### Rev. Jim Keat

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### Faith Formation

#### Rev. Kevin Wright

Executive Minister of Programs -

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#### Amanda Meisenheimer, MDiv

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#### Rev. Bruce Lamb

Associate Minister of Youth and Young Adults -

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### Music

#### Christopher Johnson

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Associate Organist -

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### Parish Care

#### Rev. Debra Northern

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#### Rev. Lynn Casteel-Harper

Associate Minister of Older Adults -

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### Social Justice

#### Rev. Kevin VanHook

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#### Jade DeSaussure

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### Stewardship & Development

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### Worship & the Arts

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### CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)

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The Riverside Church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ and cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York, and with the New York State, National, and World Council of Churches.



[trcnyc.org](http://trcnyc.org)

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## PARKING - 9/16/2018

**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.



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