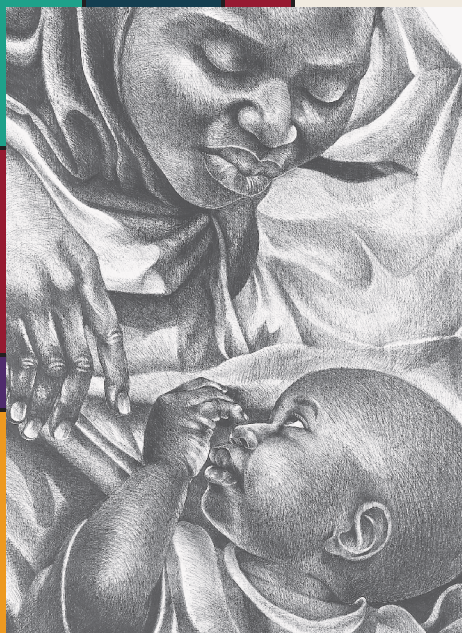


The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...
who has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
who has brought down the powerful
from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
who has filled the hungry with good things.
- Luke 1:46-53

DECEMBER 23, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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:

The song of Mary is the oldest Advent hymn. It is at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings.... This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic, or even playful tones of some of our Christmas carols. It is instead a hard, strong, inexorable song about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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 Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is signified by purple paraments and clergy stoles representing the sovereignty of Christ. Each week we light a candle in the wreath on the Nave floor (mirrored in the hanging wreath above) for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

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

Join us for Coffee 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. Breakfast and lunch for purchase will be in South Hall.

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

CARILLION

ORGAN

Choral Prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium'
Meditation on a Medieval Hymn Tune

*John Blackburn
Charles Callahan*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Amy Butler

✚ PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

✚ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

One: As we await the coming of the Christ Child, we look for signs.
What is the sign that we see?

**All: God has scattered the proud with the thoughts of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

One: What will all this mean?

**All: That God's new way has begun, and we are invited to live with justice
and compassion as we share God's light in the world.
Let us worship God who is born in our hearts again.**

✚ INVOCATION

✚ *All who are able, please stand*

LISTENING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Linda Lewis, Gwen McIntosh

SOLO

Sister Mary Had-a But One Child

Roland Hayes

Sister Mary had-a but one child, born in Bethlehem; and every time the baby cried, she'd rock him in the weary land, she'd rock him in the weary land. O three wise men to Jerusalem came, they traveled from very far. They said, "Where is he, born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star." King Herod's heart was troubled, he marveled, but his face was grim. He said, "Tell me where the child may be found, that I may worship him." An angel came to Joseph and gave him this command: "Arise and take your wife and child and flee to Egypt land; For yonder comes old Herod, a wicked man and bold. He's slaying all the children from six to eight days old." Sister Mary had-a but one child, born in Bethlehem; and every time the baby cried, she'd rock him in the weary land, she'd rock him in the weary land.

Diana Solomon-Glover, soprano

Savannah Lyons, dancer

Rochelle Jamila, choreographer

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Kevin Vanhook

Micah 5:2-5a

(page 865 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

John Hardee

Hebrews 10:5-10

(page 224 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

✚HYMN 600

Song of Mary

Morning Song

✚GOSPEL LESSON

Becca Kesting

Luke 1:39-55

(page 57 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

✚*All who are able, please stand*

God Keeps Promises?

RESPONDING

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

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.

CHORAL 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. VanHook

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

+All who are able, please stand

✚AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.

**O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✚PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. VanHook

Today we celebrate the work of our Flower Guild Ministry which provides beautiful floral arrangements and landscapes throughout the year that remind us of God's creation.

SENDING

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

✚BENEDICTION

Rev. Butler

✚RECESSIONAL HYMN 12

People, Look East

Besançon

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Sleepers, Wake"

Johann Gottfried Walther

The three images featured on the cover were created by Steve Prince, the Director of Engagement and Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary. The images are Faith Posture II: American Mama, Faith Posture III: Baghdad Mama, and Faith Posture I: Nigerian Mama © 2009 Steve Prince | Eyekons.

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
John Hardee and Becca Kesting*

✚*All who are able, please stand*

Welcome to the newest members of our
Riverside Church family who joined December 16, 2018

Alyssa Martin
Diane Speicher
Elvis Nukam Ndansi
Sadie Dempsey
Sydney McClure

CHRISTMAS FLOWER GIFTS 2018

Thank you to everyone who made generous contributions this year.
This is a partial list of donors and their honoree messages.

A complete list of all donors and honoree messages
will appear in this space on December 30.

Contributions for flowers have been given by:

Ernest Jones

In memory of my nieces, LaGreta Williams, Carmen Jones and my nephew,
Louis Collier, Jr.

Aida Montero

In loving memory of Joseph Montero, beloved papa, father, and husband.
The light of your life keeps shining on us as we follow your examples of love.

Suzanne C. Carothers

In memory of Mrs. Julia D. Carothers, Mrs. Lillian B. Alexander, Mrs. Effie Rodgers,
Mrs. Shirley E. Massey, Mrs. Vivian Collins, Mr. Donald Grigsby, Mr. B.B. DeLaine,
Dr. Ina King and Mr. Harold McQuilla.



UNSCRAMBLE IT

In Mary's song, we hear how God's strength comes through enacting justice. **Unscramble the words to see some examples of this.**

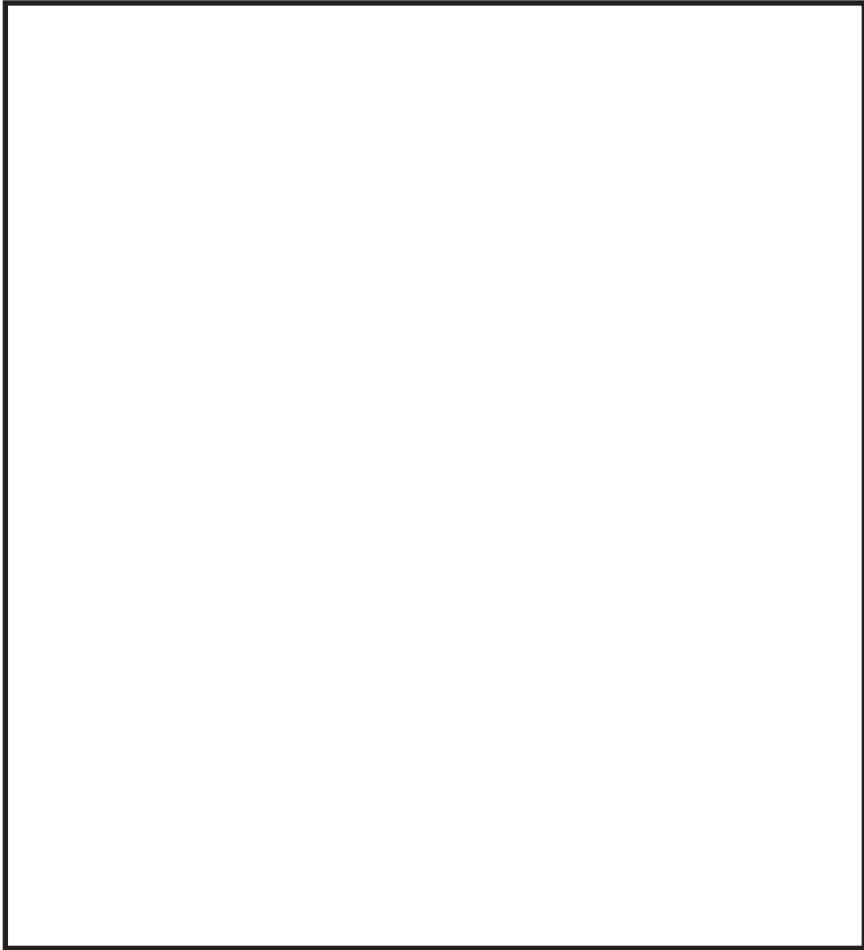
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OGD S RMA

OURBGTH WODN HET REPOFWUL

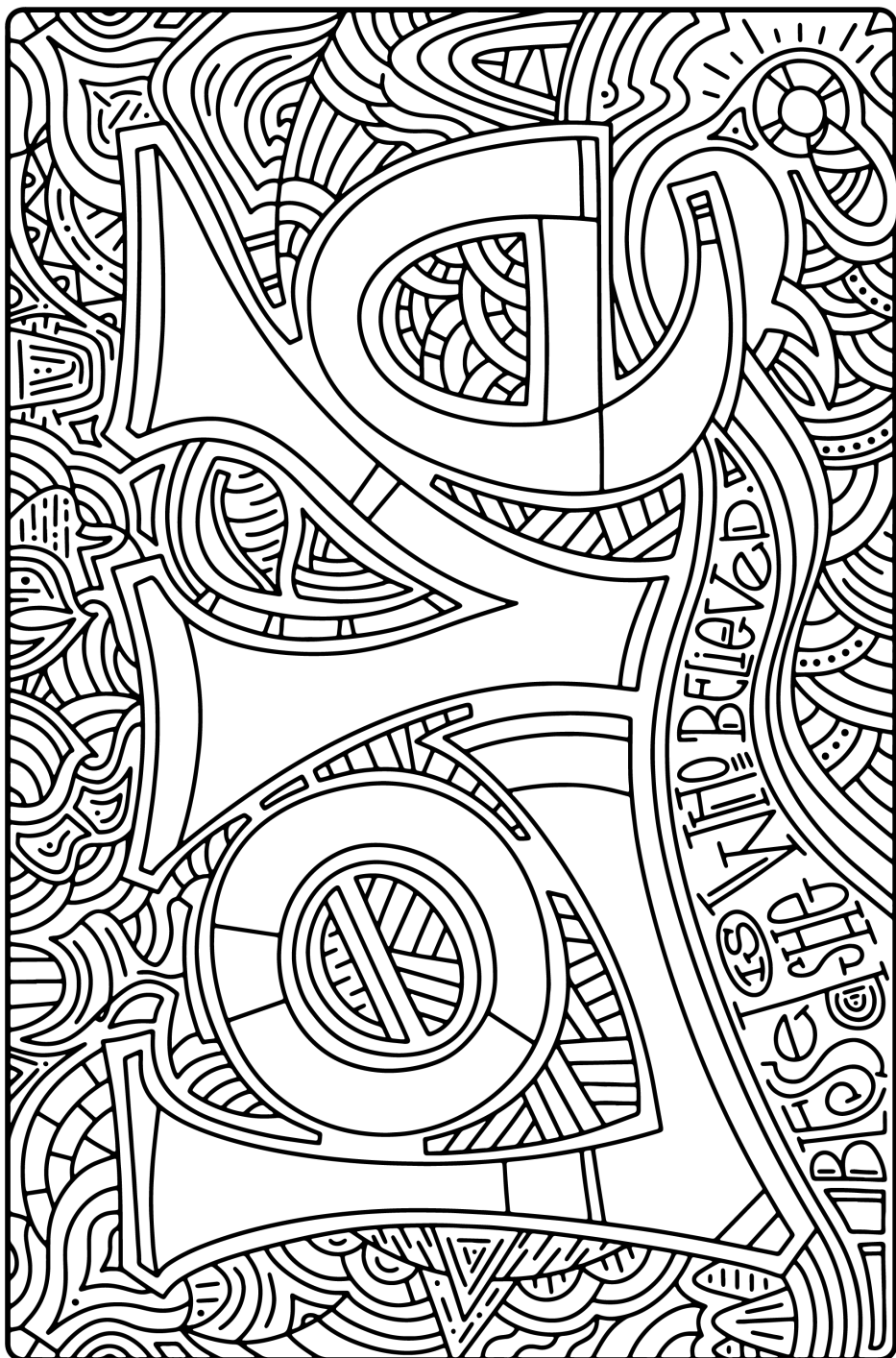
F I LDET PU HET OWYLL

L I FLDE ETH GHRUNY

ENTS TEH ICHR YAWA PTMYE



After Mary learns she will be Jesus' mother, she went to see her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also pregnant, and when she saw Mary, Elizabeth felt her baby kick and dance inside her belly. Everyone was so excited! **Draw what you imagine this scene looked like.**



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. Rev. Dr. Amy Butler is the seventh senior minister of the church and the first woman to serve in this position at the church. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

TALK WITH THE PREACHER

Read transcripts of Pastor Amy's sermons online at trcnyc.org/sermons.
Follow Pastor Amy on Twitter at @PastorAmyTRC.

Pastor Amy is available for conversations with members.
Email SrMinister@trcnyc.org or call 212-870-6775 to arrange an appointment.

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.

PARKING - 12/23/2018

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.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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