

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



GOD

AND US

stories of sin and loss

MARCH 24, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF 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:

What always strikes me in the story of Cain and Abel is how often the word “brother” is used. Cain killed his “brother.” God says it was “the blood of your brother.” The killing was done to another human being, a child of God like you, breaking that sacred bond of common humanity.

– Allen Boesak

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).

GOD & US: STORIES OF SIN AND LOSS

During the season of Lent we will explore some of the stories of sin and loss from the book of Genesis. In these stories we begin to understand more fully the relationship between God and Us, and the many ways in which we suffer a loss of connection with the divine through sinful choices we make. Stories of sin and loss are stories of the human experience. In telling them we can find ourselves and we can be found by God, who always welcomes us back into relationship with the Divine.

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 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

CARILLON

Prelude on a Lenten Hymn (Hymn #77)
Charles Semowich, guest carillonneur

N. Don Cook

HANDBELLS

Prelude on Thaxted
The Gift of Grace

arr. Michael Helman
Arnold B. Sherman

The Combined Choirs of the Annual English Handbell Festival
Christopher Johnson, flute
Debbie Rice, conductor

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Amy Butler

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians¹

St. Brendan's



We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, we are
We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, we will



one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all
walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, and to - geth - er we'll

Refrain



u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
spread the news that God is in our land: And they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll



know_ we are Chris-tians by our love.

†All who are able, please stand

✝️CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Rachel Johnson

One: Guide us on our Lenten journey, O God;

All: give us the courage to venture into the challenging places of heart and spirit.

One: Support us on our Lenten journey, O God;

All: strengthen us that we might learn and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

One: Join us with others on our Lenten journey, O God;

All: in faithful solidarity, we will name the forces of oppression and work together for equality and justice for everyone.

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.

✝️INVOCATION

Rev. Johnson

HANDBELLS

Dona Nobis Pacem

Traditional canon, arr. Kevin R. McChesney

Andrew Skrzypczak, Bassoon

A MOMENT FOR LENT

Rev. Butler

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The minister offers words of confession, to which the congregation responds as follows:

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy²

Lord have mer - cy; Christ have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy on ____ me. ____

Lord have mer - cy; Christ have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy on ____ me. ____

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*

LISTENING

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Irwin Reese

Genesis 4:1-16

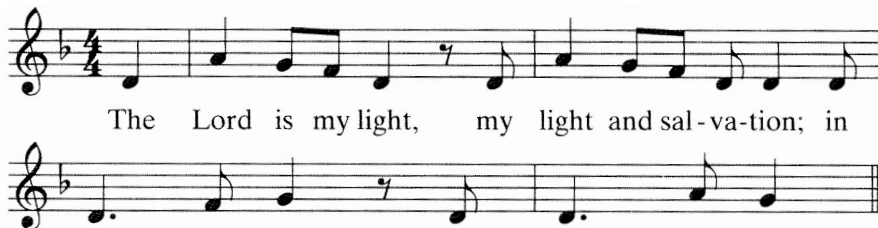
(page 3, in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 27³

Jacques Berthier (Taizé)



Jessica Marsten, cantor

EPISTLE LESSON

Irene King

Philippians 3:17-4:1

(page 198, in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 424

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising

Charterhouse

†GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Michael Livingston

Luke 13:31-35

(page 77 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Frank Thomas

Cain and Abel

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. 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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Butler

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God Moves in a Mysterious Way (Union)

Alice Parker

God moves in a mysterious way great wonders to perform; God plants great footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm. Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill, she treasures up her vast designs, and works her sov'reign will. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust God's grace; Behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face. God's purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour; The bud may leave a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower. Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan God's work in vain; God is the one interpreter, and soon will make it plain. Amen.

✦ 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

Rev. Butler

Today we celebrate the work of our Stewardship Committee, which inspires our community to give and serve as part of our Christian discipleship.

✦ *All who are able, please stand*

SENDING

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

✠BENEDICTION

Rev. Butler

✠RECESSIONAL HYMN 286

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

St. Bride

POSTLUDE

Intermezzo, from Symphonie No. VI

Charles-Marie Widor

Welcome to the newest members of our
Riverside Church family who joined March 17, 2019

Jose Gonzalez
Rosa Alvarado
Yoeimi Alvarado
Jorge Alvarado
Eva Blaudfaust
David Ganci

Tre LaVoux
Xianzhi Meng
Stephanie Chase
Amir Moore
Luvenia Madison

“Rev. Frank A. Thomas, PhD”

Rev. Frank A. Thomas, PhD, currently serves as the Director of the PhD Program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana. Rev. Thomas is the author of *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon* and *Introduction to the Practice of African American Preaching*. Thomas is also the author of several other books on subjects from matters of prayer to spiritual maturity. Thomas served with distinction as the senior pastor for two remarkable congregations: New Faith Baptist Church of Matteson, Illinois, and Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church of Memphis, Tennessee, for eighteen years and thirteen years, respectively.

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Irwin Reese and Irene King*

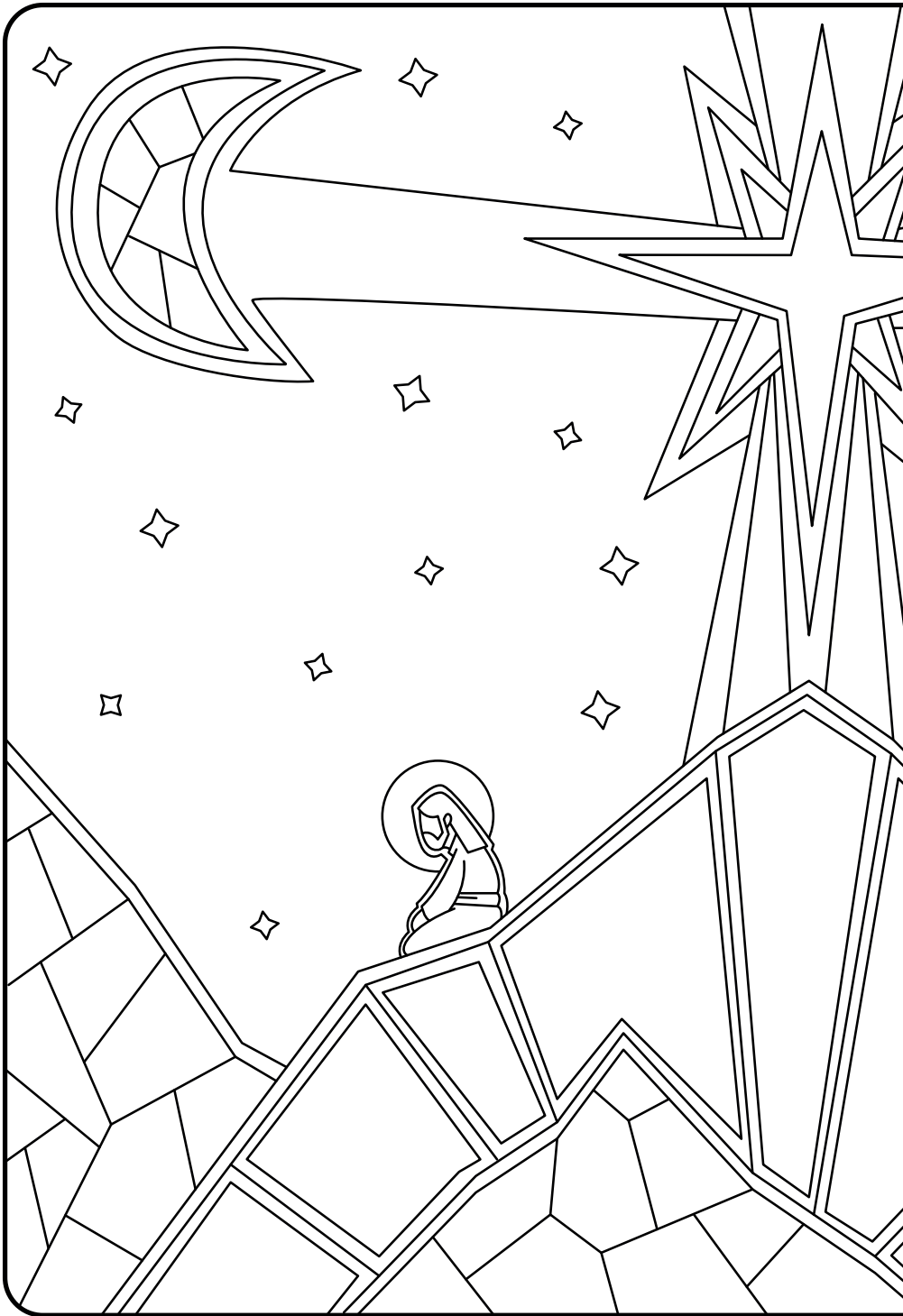
Liturgical Resources for Today:

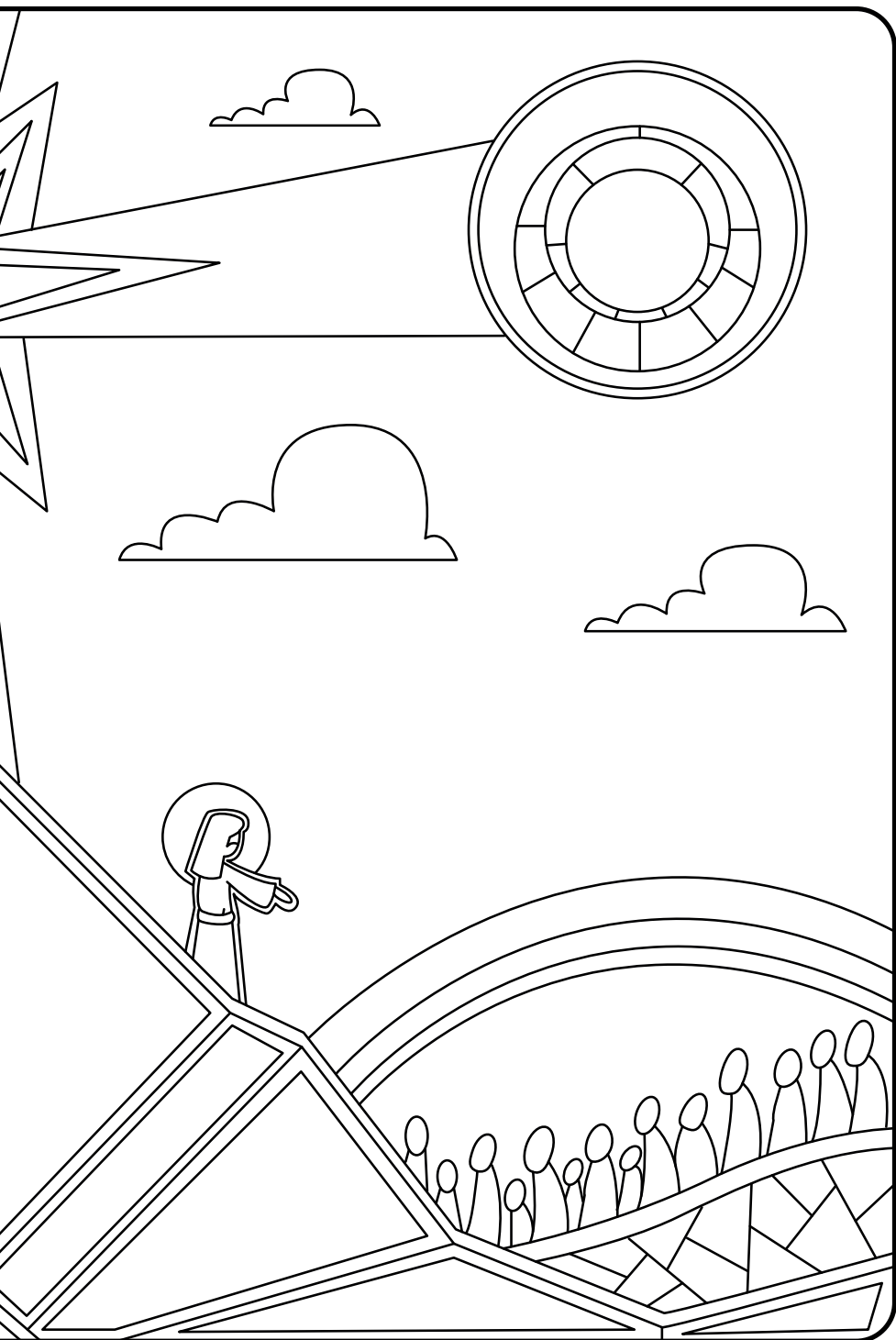
¹Reprinted under *OneLicense.net* #A-717132

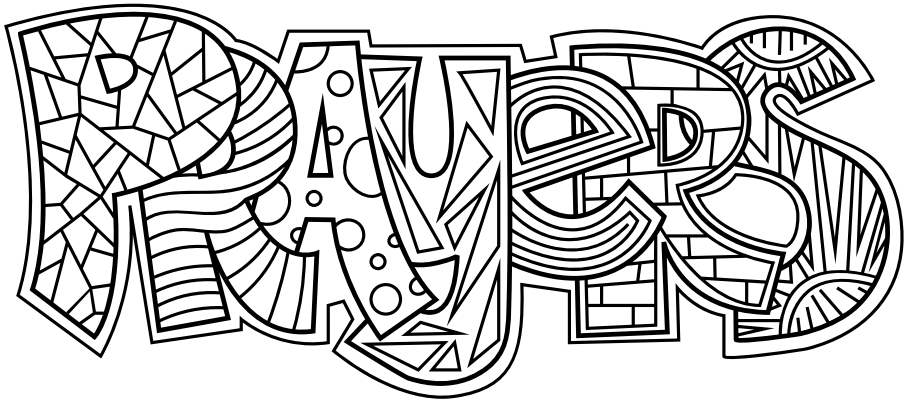
²CCLI Song Number 2989578

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✠*All who are able, please stand*







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.

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 - 3/24/2019

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.

Senior Minister's Office & Executive Leadership Team

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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



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