

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



Follow the Leader

☩ Lent 2023

FEBRUARY 22, 2023  
ASH WEDNESDAY

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

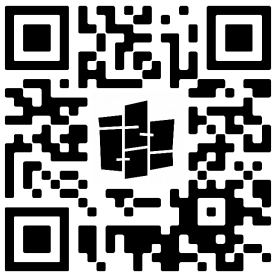
WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.

## 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).

### Whats happening at Riverside?

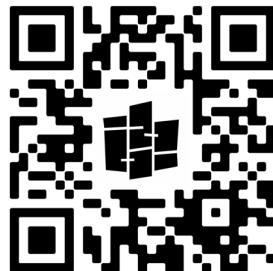
Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below. You can find a printed calendar listed in the back of your bulletin!



### Give by your phone

Make an offering using your smartphone by opening your camera and scanning the code below.

Or text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035.





## **GATHERING**

*We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God*

### **CARILLON**

Be Thou My Vision  
Forty Days and Forty Nights  
Babylon's Springs  
Memorial

*Geert D'hollander  
arr. Don Cook  
Roy Hamlin Johnson  
Theophil Rusterholz*

*Lynnili Wang, Assistant Carillonneur*

### **ORGAN**

O World, Recall Your Great Sins (BWV 622)

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Christopher Creaghan, Organist*

### **WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SILENCE**

Rev. Adriene Thorne

### **SOUND AND SILENCE**

### **†HYMN 77**

**Forty Days and Forty Nights**

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

†*All who are able, please stand*

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

In the softness of evening,  
in the solace of silence we come to you, O Lord.

**We come for acceptance;  
we come for community;  
we come for forgiveness and love.**

### *Silence*

In the serenity of day's end,  
in the restfulness of worship, we come to you O Lord.

**We come to you for respite;  
we come to you for completion;  
we come to you for forgiveness and love.**

### *Silence*

In the quiet of the night,  
in the comfort of darkness we come to you, O Lord.

**We come for peace;  
we come for comfort;  
we come for forgiveness and love.**

### *Silence*

We come, O Lord of Light,  
seeking the illumination of your Word.

We come for the path we can't find;  
we come for the life we don't have.

**We come to you for our lives are death  
and you alone have breath and being.**

## TOUCH AND SILENCE

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## OPENING PRAYER

### ANTHEM

#### **Abide With Me**

*Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan*

Abide with me; fast falls the Eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the Helpless, O, abide with me. I need Thy presence every passing hour. What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power? Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me. O, Thou who changest not, abide with me. In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. Amen.

### *LISTENING*

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

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Bruce Lamb

#### **Psalm 51:1-3**

(pg. 514 in the *Old Testament*)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### REND YOUR HEART

Rev. Jim Keat

by Jan Richardson

### SIGHT AND SILENCE

### +HYMN 81

**Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

*St. Flavian*

+*All who are able, please stand*

**†GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 18:1-9**

(pg. 18 in the New Testament)

Rev. Casteel Harper

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION**

*The G.O.A.T.*

Rev. Thorne

**RESPONDING**

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

**PRAYER AND SILENT CONFESSION**

Rev. Lamb, Rev. Keat

Adapted from Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre website

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**SCENT AND SILENCE**

**PRAYER OVER THE ASHES**

Rev. Thorne

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*At the direction of the ushers, you will be invited to come forward and receive the imposition of the ashes. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please place your arms across your chest.*

**†** *All who are able, please stand*

## MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### ORGAN

Chorale Prelude on "Beautiful Savior"

*Franklin D. Ashdown*

### ANTHEM

#### **Ah, Jesus Lord, My Love to Thee**

*Southern folk tune, arr. 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.

### PRAYER FOLLOWING IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Rev. Keat

Merciful God, thank you for calling us into this holy season of Lent. Let the mark of ashes remind us of our need for your guidance and grace. Strengthen us in love, and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### HYMN 76

#### **My Song Is Love Unknown**

*St. Flavian*

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Thorne

**ORGAN MEDITATION**

Attende Domine

*Jeanne Demessieux*

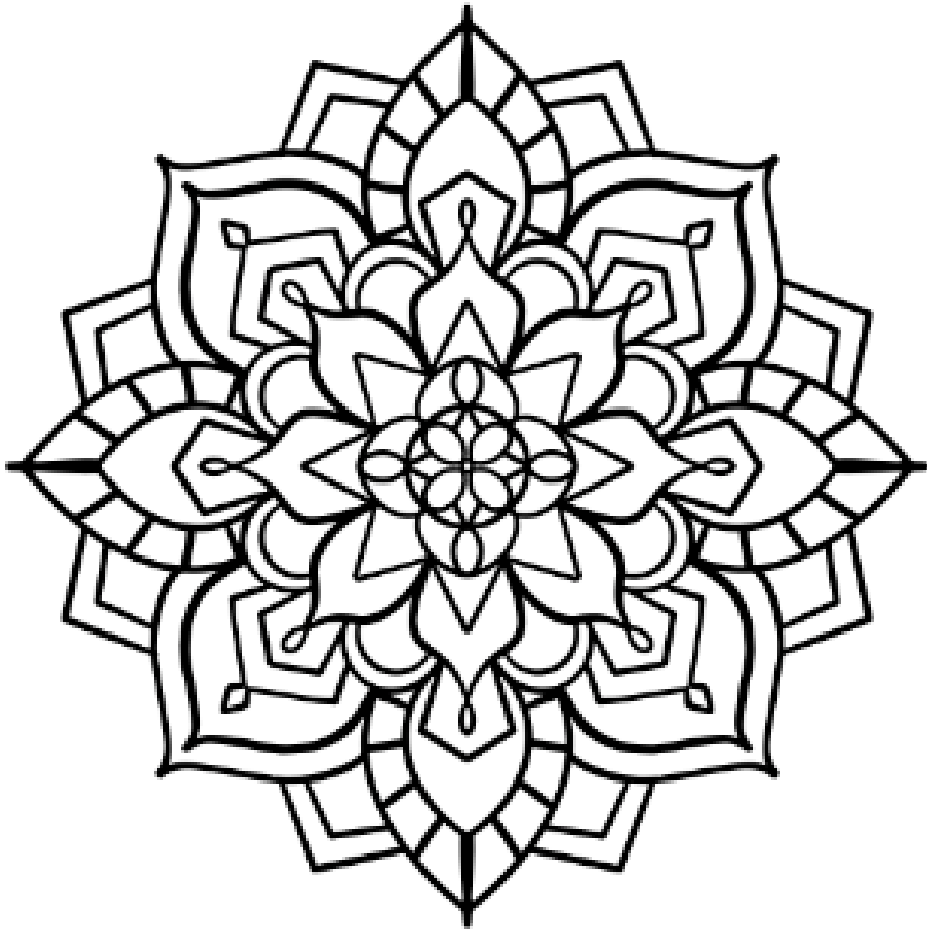
**TASTE AND SILENCE**

*The congregation may depart in silence.*

*Anyone who wishes to may remain for silent meditation and prayer. Church will remain open until  
9:00pm.*

†*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. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Adriene Thorne, Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

## **LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please visit [trcnyc.org/loc](http://trcnyc.org/loc) for more information.

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) to your "safe sender list" or visit [trcnyc.org/email](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!

## **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://trcnyc.org/app) to download the app and stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS**

Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 p.m. and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals](http://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.

## **CHURCH NURSERY OPEN**

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30-12:30 during worship staffed by trained nursery workers. For location please see an usher or security guard.

## **SUNDAY MORNING PARKING UPDATE**

The garage will no longer accept bulletins as of Sunday 2/12/23. Congregants now need to go to the Security Desk on the C-Level, pick up a coupon that has a QR code on it, then bring the coupon, with their parking ticket, down to the attendant and will then pay the \$5 fee.

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## CONNECT WITH US.

**Rev. Adriene Thorne**  
Senior Minister  
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### Pastoral and Program Staff

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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](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*

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trcnyc.org



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