

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2024 | 7:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

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

True Religion: Love Poured Out

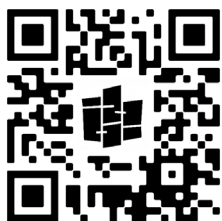
During the season of Lent, we invite you to engage the practices of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice. As you engage them intentionally and consistently, you will notice a hunger for more time with Jesus.

Questions for Reflection:

How do you intend to practice true religion this Lent?
In what ways will you be an example of Jesus' love poured out into the world?

What's happening at Riverside?

You can find a printed calendar listed in the back of your bulletin!



Give by your phone.

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover art by Jamil De Honney.

Inspired by our Lenten theme "True Religion: Love Poured Out" and Philippians 2:5-8.

*Riverside worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online.
If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, we invite you to sit in the balcony.*



CARILLON

Final Chorus from the St. Matthew Passion
Aus der Tiefe rufe ich
Variations on the Passion Chorale

J.S. Bach, arr. John Courter
arr. Don Cook
John Courter

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Pavane

Robert Elmore

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SILENCE

Rev. Adriene Thorne

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *standing as able*

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

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

Silence is kept.

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

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

Silence is kept.

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

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

Silence is kept.

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One: 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.

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

INVOCATION *remain standing*

HYMN 87 *remain standing, sung by all*
The Glory of These Forty Days

ERHALT UNS, HERR

PRAYER AND SILENT CONFESSION
In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.

Rev. Adriene Thorne

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

FIRST MEDITATION

First Last, Last First

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

“But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”
Mark 10:31

One: Unite us in Your love.

All: **That we may follow Your call.**

HYMN 81 *standing as able, sung by all*
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

SECOND MEDITATION

Bartimaeus Healed

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

“Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’ And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’”

Mark 10:49

One: Unite us in Your love.

***All:* That we may follow Your call.**

EMBODIED PRACTICE

As the choir sings this anthem, you are invited to rock, to hum, to hug yourself. You may do this seated or standing. Whatever posture you take, as you move or remain still, may the words of this anthem resonate deeply within you as we prepare for our Lenten journey.

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus

Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

I heard my mother say, “give me Jesus.” Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus. Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry. Give me Jesus. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.

THIRD MEDITATION

Parable of the Tenants

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

“Have you not read this scripture: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone....’”

Mark 12:10

One: Unite us in Your love.

***All:* That we may follow Your call.**

ORGAN & DANCE

Aria

Paul Manz

Nicole Leung, *dancer*

FOURTH MEDITATION

Great Commandment

Rev. Jim Keat

**“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another,
and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him,
Which commandment is the first of all?”**

Mark 12:28

One: Unite us in Your love.

***All:* That we may follow Your call.**

SOLO

No Greater Love

Isham Jones

Liz Lang, *soprano*

Jim Bassi, *piano*

FIFTH MEDITATION

End of the Age

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Mark 13:37

One: Unite us in Your love.

***All:* That we may follow Your call.**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

A REFLECTION ON ASHES

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

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. For everyone worshipping online we invite you to go to trcnyc.org/AshWednesday to join Rev. Jim Keat and our congregants for a virtual imposition of ashes experience.

ANTHEM

Love Bade Me Welcome

David Hurd

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.*

*'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'*

*'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.*

PRAYER FOLLOWING IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Rev. Adriene Thorne

All: Merciful God, thank You for calling us into this holy season of Lent. Let the mark of these ashes remind us of our daily need of Your providential care. Strengthen us in our love, and encourage us in our service. Grant that our sacrifices during these 40 Lenten days draw us closer to You, and may we know more deeply the wondrous love of Christ, that holy love that continues to be poured out for all humanity. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 76 *standing as able, sung by all*
My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

BENEDICTION

Rev. Adriene Thorne

*May the dust of the wilderness hold your footprints
lovingly
shaped as they are by your hurt
for dust remembers*

*May the journey into wilderness unfold
honestly
for honesty is the gift
your soul recognises as you*

*May your time in this wilderness
be shaped by space
rather than minutes
so there is time enough for all of you*

*May the stones in this wilderness
cry out your name loudly
that your spirit recognises the voice
that has been calling you always*

*And may you know this wilderness
has been expecting you
and you find between the stones
a promise growing*

ORGAN & DANCE MEDITATION

Hear Us, O Lord

Jeanne Demessieux

Nicole Leung, *dancer*



*The nave will remain open until 9:00pm.
Anyone who wishes is welcome to remain for silent meditation and prayer.
Thank you for departing in silence.*

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).

This space is intentionally left blank for notes and reflection.

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 A. Forbes, Jr., Senior Minister Emeritus

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at trcnyc.org/ email. If you're not receiving them, add communications@trcnyc.org to your "Safe Sender list."

MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE

Membership is about responding to God's call on your life to step up and belong to this community as you pursue the passion God has set in your heart. By joining The Riverside Church you are taking the next step to partner with us as we seek to cultivate a community of justice, peace, and love that transforms the world. Visit trcnyc.org/membership to find out more.

DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit 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

These recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals for the complete schedule and programs.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING *(also includes Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services)*

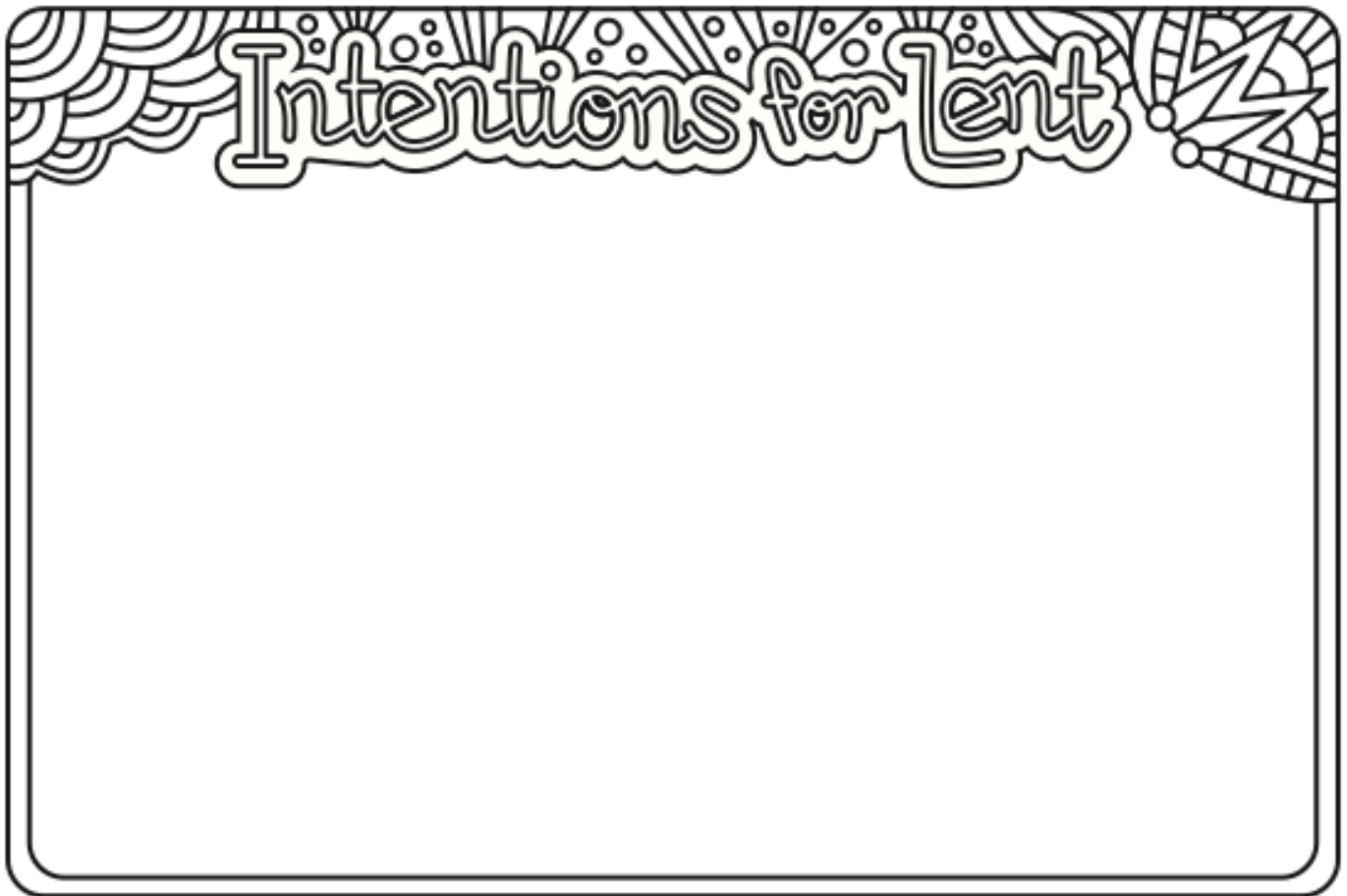
Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this bulletin and your parking ticket to the attendant on the upper level to receive this discounted rate, pay, and pick up your car. This discounted rate applies to Sundays only.

CHURCH NURSERY

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 AM-12:30 PM and is staffed by trained nursery workers. For location, please see an usher or security guard.

VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to serving in our Communion and Greeters ministries, providing support in our Food Pantry and Clothing Distribution programs, to making a digital impact through our Digital Ministry, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, establish connections with those who share your passion and purpose, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Join Riverside's volunteer family, and let your light shine in all the ways that matter. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.



PRAYER

Dear God of our whole selves,
As we journey through this season of Lent,
teach us how to give,
so that we can joyfully respond when you call us to serve.
Teach us how to pray,
so that we can be closer to you in all that we do throughout the day.
Teach us how to let go,
so nothing can stand in the way of our connection with you.
Teach us how to prepare,
so we can be ready to receive your love, wisdom, and blessing.
Help us to remember that in all ways we belong to you,
Amen.

CONNECT WITH US

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Senior Minister

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To contact the church with general
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*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/
directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*



trcnyc.org



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