

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



**MAKING**

ROOM

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FOR HOPE

DECEMBER 1, 2019  
FIRST 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:

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences,  
penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

-Maya Angelou

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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 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 (except for Communion Sundays when the liturgical color is white). 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.

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**Healing Prayer**, typically offered the first Sunday of every month immediately following Worship, is available today. Two of Riverside's ministers will be at the front of the Nave to pray for anyone who desires it.

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## IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

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

**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

Sleepers, Wake!

*Traditional*

*Andrew Park, guest carillonneur*

Three settings of "Now Come our Savior"

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

*Don Cook*

*Sally Warner*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us (BWV 645)

*J. S. Bach*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### †PROCESSIONAL HYMN 17

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

*Wachet auf*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 122

Rev. Kevin VanHook

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

One: Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.

**All: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

One: For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

**All: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**

**"May they prosper who love you.**

One: Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

**All: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you. For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good. Let us worship together in peace as we prepare for the coming of the LORD!"**

### †INVOCATION

†*All who are able, please stand*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Soto Family

### INTROIT

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee      *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*

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

Farley Lord

**Lord of mercy, God of grace,  
We give thanks to you with one voice for the joy and hope this season  
brings. At times we find ourselves distracted by all the preparations  
and stresses that surround us. Help us to focus on YOU our Rock and  
Redeemer. Restore our hearts to your message of love and your call to  
peace. Hear now the confessions of our hearts (*silent prayer*). Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>2</sup>

**One:** We worship a God who is not distant or apathetic, but a God who is with us- a God who loves us. Let us keep our eyes open and look for God's daily presence and conform our ways to God's teachings of compassion and grace.

**All:** **Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts fueled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ who came into the world that we would be forgiven. Amen.**

### + PASSING OF THE PEACE

**One:** The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

### LISTENING

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

### +HYMN 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

*Llangloffan*

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Isaiah 2:1-5

(pg. 631 in the *Old Testament*)

**One:** The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

+*All who are able, please stand*

**All:** “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God’s ways and that we may walk in the paths.”

**One:** For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

**All:** **They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

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

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠EPISTLE LESSON

Eugene Melino

Romans 13:11-14

*(pg. 162 in the New Testament)*

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

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Michael Livingston

Making Room for Hope: Advent Affirmations

### RESPONDING

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

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Farley Lord

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lo, In the Time Appointed

*Healey Willan*

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come, the mountains and hills will break forth in singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord shall come into the everlasting kingdom and on the throne of David shall reign forever. Alleluia.

## ✠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, thou Wisdom from on high; And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show; And help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

✠*All who are able, please stand*

## ✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. VanHook

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Social Services programs, which offers comprehensive services for those in economic and social crisis by providing food, clothing, and many other resources.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

*Following each petition, please join in the following response:*

One: O Christ our light is coming.

**All: Prepare the way of 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 THE TABLE

Rev. Livingston

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;



heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo - ry be to you, O God.



Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God. —



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

### CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!**

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!**

*A gluten-free option for communion bread is available upon request from a communion server.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

### ORGAN

Savior of the Nations, Come  
Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul (Op. 65, No. 5)

Craig Phillips  
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**CHOIR**

Salvation is Created

*Pavel Chesnokov*

Salvation is created, in midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.

**HYMN 14**

Savior of the Nations, Come

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

**✝PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

Rev. Livingston

God of hope you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love, and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*SENDING*

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

**✝RECESSIONAL HYMN 6**

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

*Helmsley*

**BENEDICTION**

*Please be seated.*

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata on "Sleepers, Wake!"

*Hugo Distler*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Worship Ways*

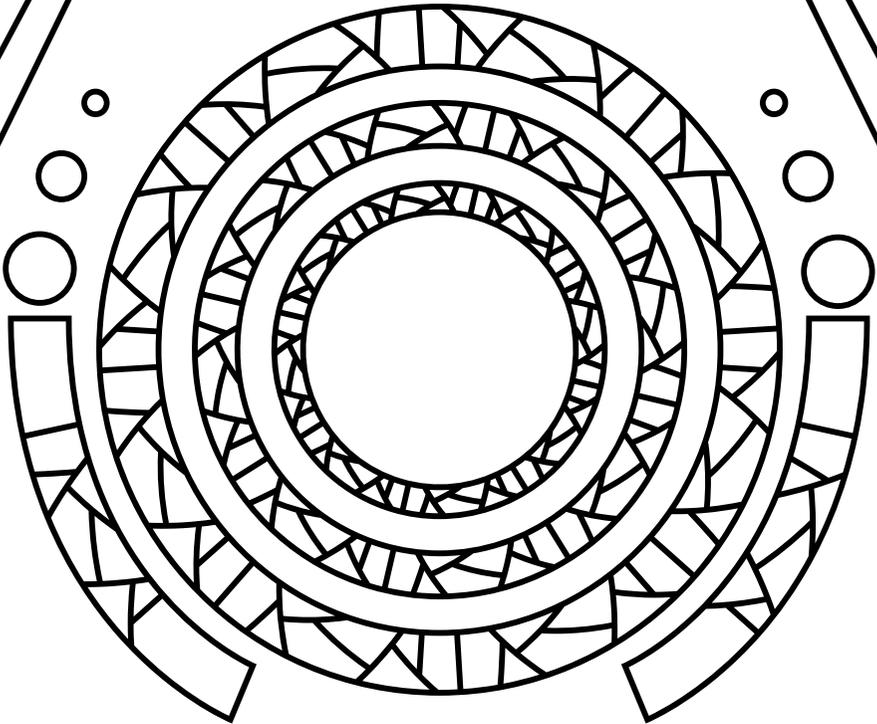
<sup>2</sup>*Worship Ways*

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:*

*Eugene Melino & Rev. Geraldine Howard*

✝*All who are able, please stand*

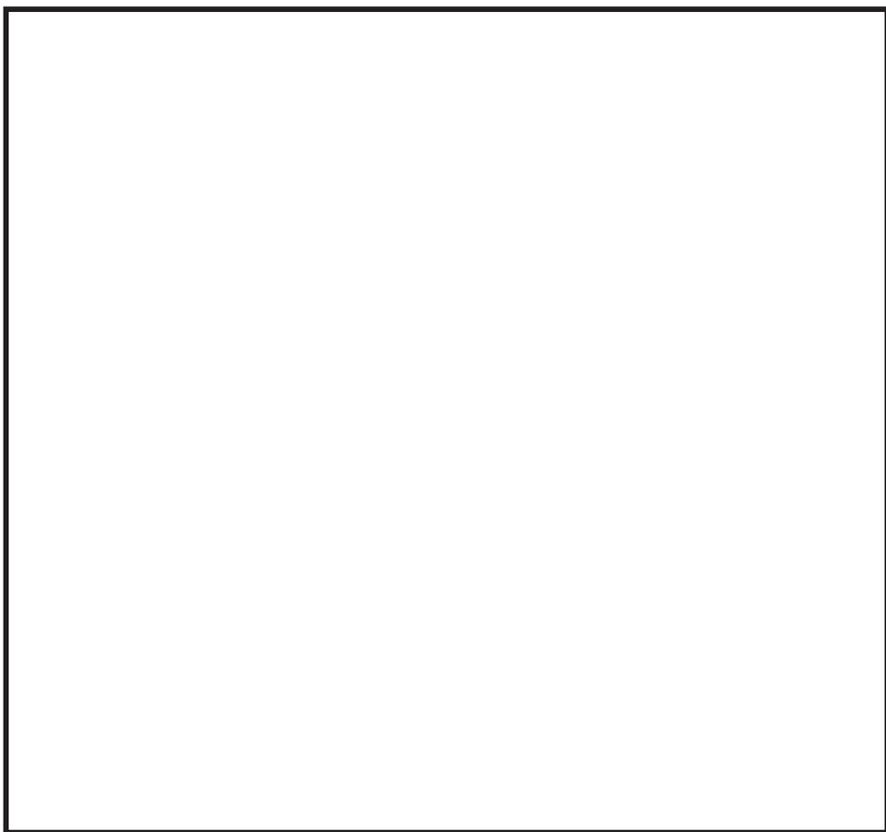
Let us walk  
in the **LIGHT** of the  
Lord





# DRAW IT

In Romans 13, Paul encourages us to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” like we would clothing. Our faith and love for Christ should be visible to others, just like our clothes. **Draw a picture of you doing something that would help people know you love Jesus.**



## **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. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

## **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](http://trcnyc.org/Events) for more information and to download a copy.

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### **PARKING - 12/1/2019**

**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.

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### **Rev. Michael Livingston**

Interim 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](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

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

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