

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAKING

ROOM

FOR LOVE

DECEMBER 22, 2019
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:

“To love is to be vulnerable, to be human. To love, is a decision we have to make every encounter, every day. Love is a choice among easier alternatives. You can walk away, or love. You can speak with bitterness or with a hard truth in love. You can speak without listening because all that really matters is your voice—or hear with love. You can be impatient and pass by treasures waiting for air and light. You can suffer in solitary confinement, or make room for love.”

-Rev. Michael Livingston

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.

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 trcnc.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

Five Advent Hymns

Leen't Hart

- I. God is my Strong Salvation
- II. I Keep Hoping for You, My Savior
- III. Lift Up Your heads
- IV. On Inhabiting that Empire
- V. There Comes a Ship Loaded

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Jesu Christus, unser Heiland

Dietrich Buxtehude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Arnold Mendelssohn

Chorale prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium'

John Blackburn

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

✚PROCESSIONAL HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

✚CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Hsien-Yu Wang

One: Restore us, O God of hosts; let us see the light of Christ who is coming our way!

All: Hear our hearts which speak of all transgressions: Tears of joy and pain, fears of doubt and change, feelings of anxiety throughout our days.

One: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us so that we may be saved.

All: For all your wisdom, love and might, give us new hope, new vision and new life in the company of Christ. As we call out your name, may we make room in our lives for the divine love that only you can provide. May the love of Christ fill our hearts today and all the days to come.

✚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

Mace Anderson & Dennis Rager

INTROIT

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Farley Lord

**Loving God, Even in the midst of a season of joy,
We must confess that there are times when we lose sight of what
really matters. We get so caught up in our own plans that we neglect
to look out for others.**

**While we are anxiously awaiting Emmanuel
And the hope that Christ's birth will bring,
We often neglect to bring hope
To those who are alone and hurting during this season of Advent.
We are often so busy looking for the light that is to come
That we forget to be the light for those who need it most.
For these times we ask for forgiveness.**

**Let us take a moment to call to mind the places in our neighborhoods,
communities and the wider world where anxiety and pain have taken
root, and which need our witness of hope. (*silent prayer*)
Forgive us, O God, and guide us in the path of hope, peace, and love.
Amen.**

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Trad., arr. J. Elson

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid all our sad divisions cease and be for us the Prince of Peace.

*The Riverside Youth Choir
Joshua Elson, director*

✦ *All who are able, please stand*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Lamb

Isaiah 7:10-16

(pg. 636 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 16

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Gabriel's Message

†GOSPEL LESSON

Dr. Colleen Birchett

Matthew 1:18-25

(pg. 1 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

Making Room For Joy: Angel in the House

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lamb

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.

†*All who are able, please stand*

CHORAL AMEN

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Farley Lord

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sin, 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. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

†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

Farley Lord

Today we celebrate the gift of our Flower 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

†RECESSIONAL HYMN 12

People, Look East

Besançon

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Paul Manz

†*All who are able, please stand*

Welcome to the newest members of our
Riverside Church family who joined December 15, 2019

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Timothy Mayo | Nancy Brandon |
| Aaron Patterson | Michael Artis |
| David Sapadin | Liane Pippin |
| Elizabeth Libby Sapadin | Julius Toussiant Woods |
| Rose Miranada | Robert Lugo |

FLOWER GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The flowers in the Nave this season are dedicated in memoriam by:

Mary Joe Nenadovich
In loving memory of Ruth Hall.

Carolyn Britton-Mitchell
In deep appreciation for the life and love of the Britton Family.

Clarence C Anderson and Emily B Anderson,
*In Memory Of Their Parents Albert Anderson, Bertha Anderson and Curtis Butler
and Justine Butler.*

June Gray Fletcher
*In loving memory of our mother Rubye T. Gray, grandmothers Ruby Tilles and
Charlie Gray, and great grandmother Ardelia Michelle.*

John N. Johnson
In memory of Phyllis E. Johnson.

Lorraine Burchall
*In memory of my sister, Ruth Burchall-Sanseviro and my Riverside Mentor,
Cathryn Glover.*

Aida Montero
In memory of Hector Rodriguez and Joseph Montero.

*Special thanks to our congregational leader:
Dr. Colleen Birchett*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Based on Psalm 80

²Adapted from Worship Ways

✝ All who are able, please stand

 DRAW IT

In Matthew 1, after Mary learned she was pregnant with Jesus, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream to tell him this news. Imagine what this looked like. Draw a picture of it.





WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 80 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

S V W B L B C W S M W O V J X
N U F H F E Y X D T A X V X C
D G R L U G A D I N R X X O F
B N Q X X Y N R G A A O T V Y
G E D B S P S E S E U H N W P
L U A C R P X H H I S V Y G E
M F E Q A E G P I T E P J L O
T E R Z E R R E F N P Q D I P
A F B U T O U H B R E X D F L
E X G M Z T G S A V A M L E E
C C P I Q S A Y D G R Q H R Z
A E P G C E E R O B H G I E N
F U H H K R M V L L U H J F T
X S W T W C A L A A O K N Z U
A N P I E Z N K L S K F S R X

EAR
SHEPHERD
ISRAEL
MIGHT
SAVE
RESTORE

FACE
SHINE
PEOPLE
PRAYER
BREAD
TEARS

NEIGHBOR
LAUGH
HAND
STRONG
LIFE
NAME

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.

PARKING - 12/22/2019

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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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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