

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAKING

ROOM

FOR PEACE

DECEMBER 8, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

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:

“Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, as good a man as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter at the outset...”

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

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 trcny.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

Three Carillon Preludes for Advent

Geert D'hollander

- I. Rejoice Believers
- II. There is a Voice in the Wilderness
- III. Prepare the Way, O Zion

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)
Meditation on a Medieval Hymn Tune

J. S. Bach
Charles Callahan

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Bruce Lamb

✚PROCESSIONAL HYMN 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Valet will ich Dir geben

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: As the time draws near to the coming of Christ,
may the spirit of the LORD rest within us.

**All: May the spirit of wisdom and understanding
guide us to make room in our lives for peace.**

One: May our God of hope, patience,
love and forgiveness grant us life in harmony with one another.

**All: For the glory of God, let us unite in worshipping with one
another as Christ welcomes each of us in peace.**

✚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

The Hartley Family

INTROIT

Veni Immanuel

Iona Community

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Martha Wiggins

Isaiah 11:1-10

(pgs. 640 & 641 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†GOSPEL LESSON

Farley Lord

Matthew 3:1-12

(pgs. 2 & 3 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

A Riverside Christmas Carol

Matthew Hommez, Director, The Riverside Rising Voices Choir

Sharon Pritchard, Director, The Riverside Cherub Choir

Amanda Meisenheimer, Stage Direction and Original Script

Yuliya Basis, Pianist

Veronica Mittenzwei, Choreographer

Thomas Price, Set Designer

†HYMN 13

Prepare the Way

Bereden väg för Herran

†*All who are able, please stand*

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Farley Lord

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

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Lamb

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lo, How A Rose

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming of Jesse's root has grown. A rose, by prophet's singing, to all the world made known. The rose, 'midst winter's cold, a lonely blossom bearing, in former days, foretold. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To Show God's love aright, she bore to man a Saviour when half spent was the night. It came, a flow'ret bright amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

†*All who are able, please stand*

✚ 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, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's cold shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

✚ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Farley Lord

Today we celebrate the work of our Children's Ministry, which provides a worshipful space for children to engage the stories of our faith through the lens of love and justice.

SENDING

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

✚ BENEDICTION

Amanda Meisenheimer

✚ RECESSIONAL HYMN 10

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

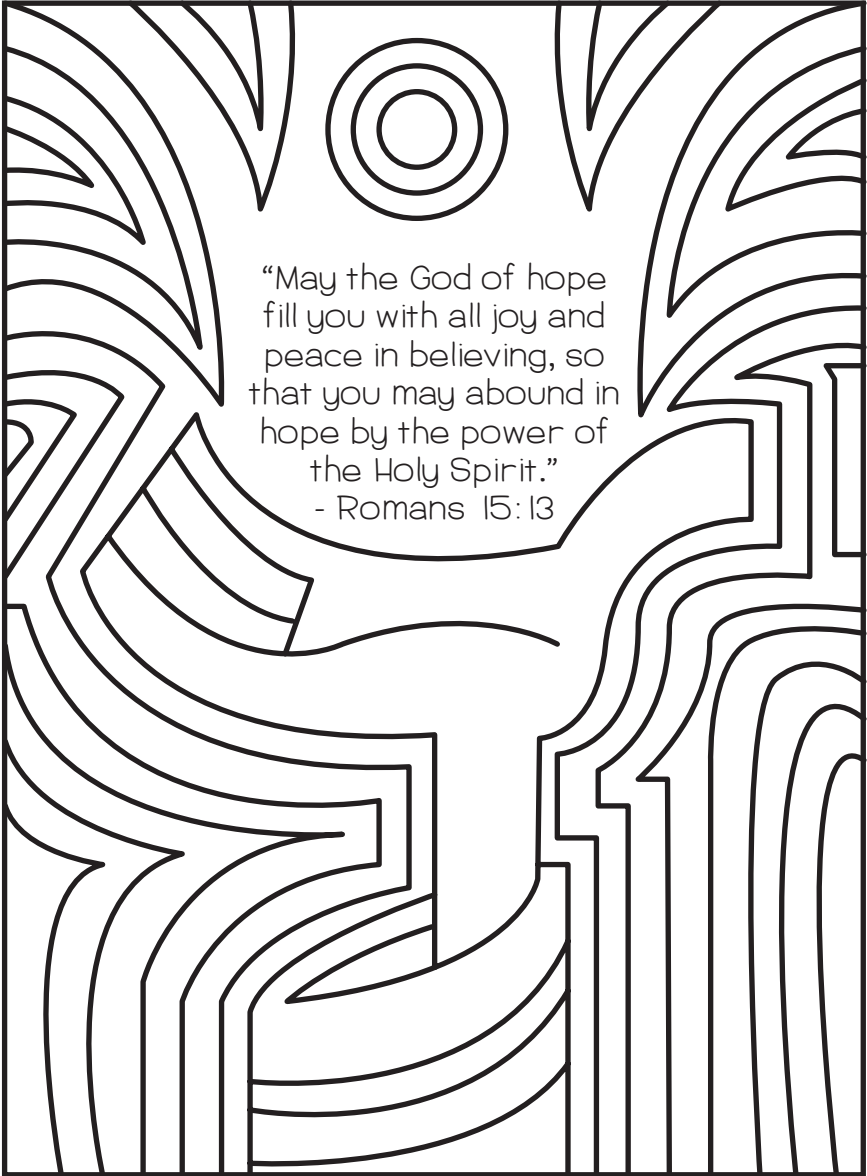
POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV 733)

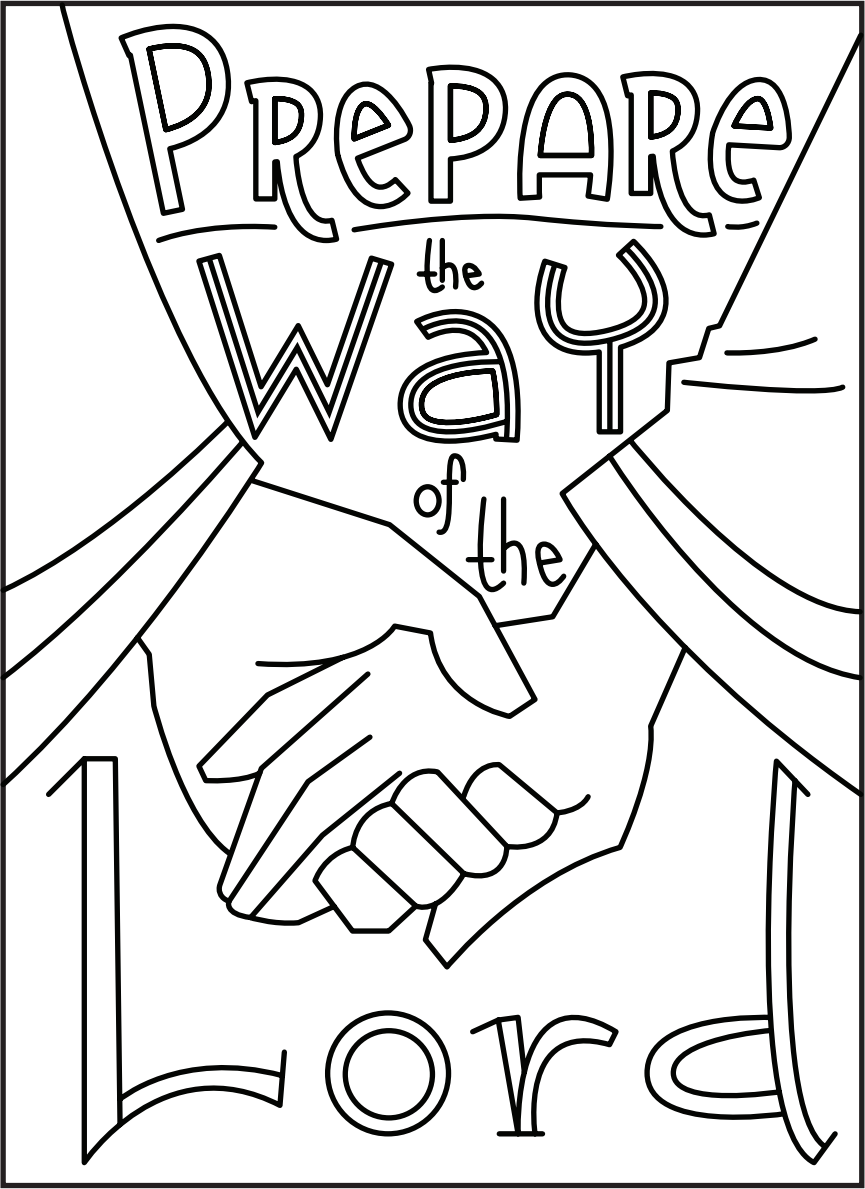
J. S. Bach

*Special thanks to our congregational leader:
Dr. Martha Wiggins*

✚ *All who are able, please stand*



“May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so
that you may abound in
hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.”
- Romans 15:13



PREPARE

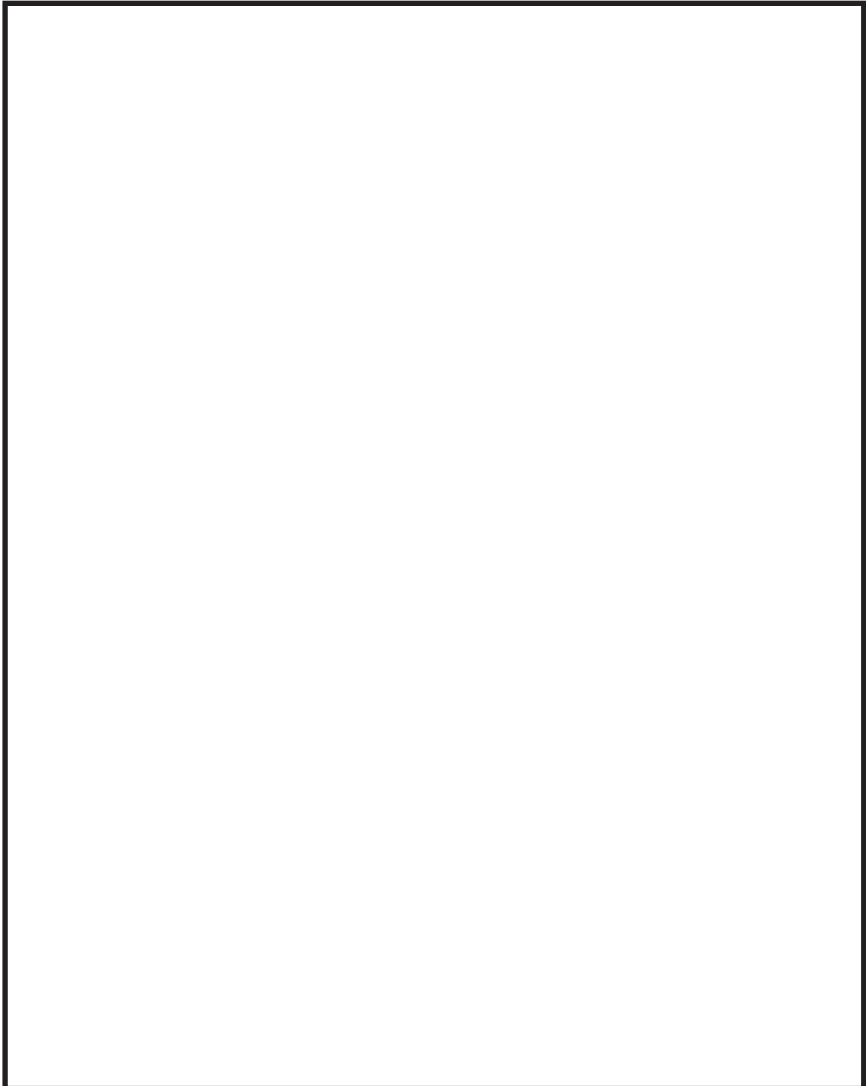
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LORD

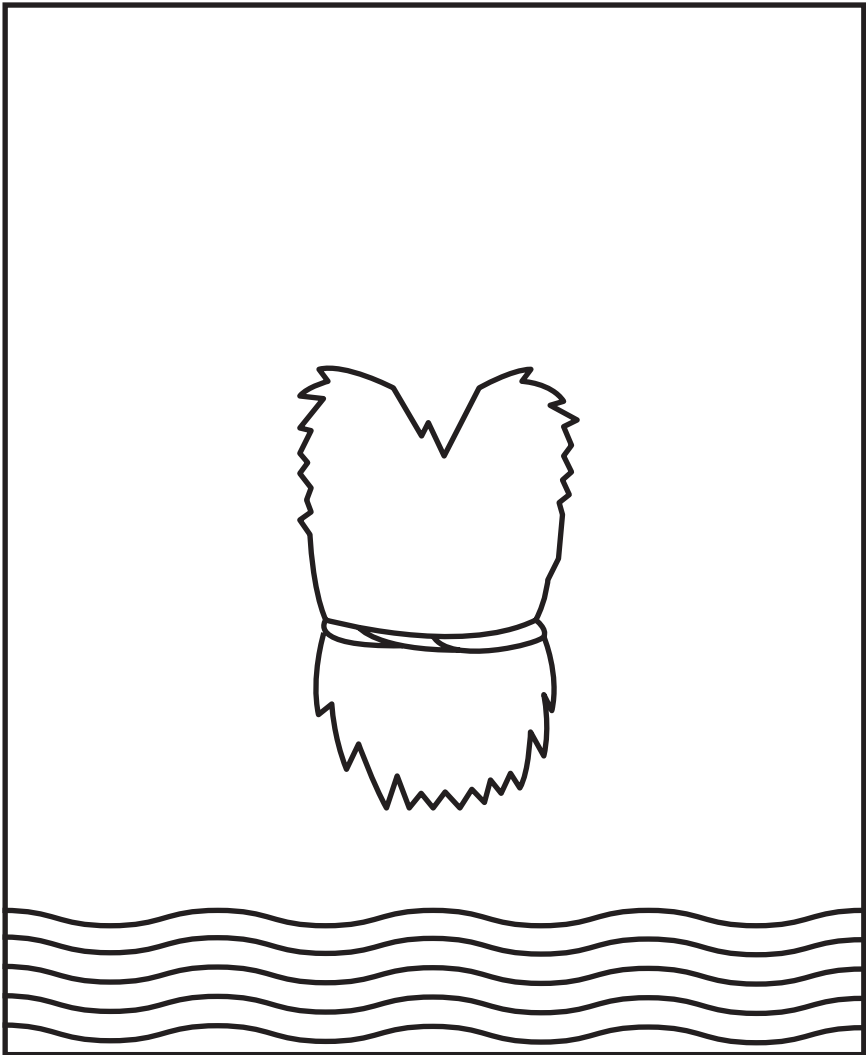
 DRAW IT

Isaiah 11 shares a beautiful picture of what peace in God's reign looks like. Wolves not harming or eating lambs. Cows being safe around bears. Children not getting hurt from snakes. Draw a picture of what you think peace looks like.



FINISH the DRAWING

Matthew 3 describes John the Baptist who wore camel's hair, lived in the desert, and ate locusts and honey. What he wanted most was to help people change their hearts to live out God's love. Finish the drawing of John. Who is standing around him? What is he saying?



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 for more information and to download a copy.

PARKING - 12/08/2019

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



trcnyc.org



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