

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



SERVICE OF HOPE & CONSOLATION  
DECEMBER 8, 2019 2:00PM  
CHRIST CHAPEL

## **BLESSING IN THE CHAOS**

*To all that is chaotic in you,  
let there come silence.*

*Let there be  
a calming  
of the clamoring,  
a stilling  
of the voices that  
have laid their claim  
on you,  
that have made their  
home in you, that go with you  
even to the  
holy places  
but will not  
let you rest,  
will not let you  
hear your life  
with wholeness  
or feel the grace  
that fashioned you.*

*Let what distracts you cease.  
Let what divides you  
cease.*

*Let there come an end  
to what diminishes  
and demeans,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.*

*Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find  
the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.*

- Jan Richardson



## Organ

Sarabande from "Holberg Suite", Op. 40, No. 2

*Edvard Grieg*

## Welcome

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

## +Call To Worship from Psalm 27:1, 13-14

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

One: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**All: Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!**

## +Opening Prayer

## +Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

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.

## Isaiah 40:1, 25-31

Minister Derrick Jordan

## Song

I Will Lift Up My Eyes

*John Purifoy*

## Psalm 121

Rev. Debra Northern

One: I will lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

One: He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out  
and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

One: May God give us courage in the days to come.

## Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## Matthew 11:28-30

Rev. Harper

## Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

O come, O Desire of nations, bind, in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## Lighting of Candles of Hope and Remembrance

*For a Time of Sorrow*

*Howard Thurman*

I share with you the agony of your grief,  
The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.  
I know I cannot enter all you feel  
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;  
I can but offer what my love does give:  
The strength of caring,  
The warmth of one who seeks to understand  
The silent storm-swept barrenness of so great a loss.  
This I do in quiet ways,  
That on your lonely path  
You may not walk alone.

*Lament Psalm Eight*

*Ann Weems*

God, have you forgotten our covenant?  
Have you forgotten your promise?  
Can't you enter my world of tears?  
Can't you make your home  
in a heart that is broken?  
O God, acknowledge that you hear my cry?  
Send word that you are on the way!  
Answer me so that I can cling to some hope  
of your presence, for I have believed  
that you would come.  
I have trusted that you would keep your word.  
I will praise your name through my tears  
and continue to worship you, my hope and my life,  
for you are merciful and just,  
and compassion is your name.  
You will be with me;  
You will bless and keep me,  
and I will live in your abundant love  
for all time.

May you know tender shelter and healing blessing  
when you are called to stand in the place of pain.  
May the places of darkness within you be surprised by light.  
May you be granted the wisdom to avoid false resistance  
and when suffering knocks on the door of your life,  
may you be able to glimpse its hidden gift.  
May you be able to see the fruits of suffering.  
May memory bless and shelter you with the hard-earned light of past turmoil,  
to remind you that you have survived before,  
And though the darkness is now deep,  
You will soon see approaching light.  
May this give you confidence and trust.  
May a window of light always surprise you.  
May the grace of transfiguration heal your wounds.

*You are invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of a loved one, in acknowledgment of a loss, or in the hope of the light of Christ.*

### Organ

Adagio (Concerto in A minor, BWV 593)

J. S. Bach

### †Prayer for Healing

Rev. Northern

One: The God of strength moves within us;

**All: the God of courage hears our distress.**

One: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;

**All: the God of healing touches us when we are broken.**

One: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,

**All: we turn to our God, who sustains us and comforts us.**

One: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,

**All: we turn to our God, who loves us tenderly and fiercely.**

One: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,

**All: and we are not alone.**

**Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.**

### †Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Benediction**

Rev. Northern

**Postlude**

Comfort, Comfort, You My People (Op. 5, No. 2)

*Paul Manz*

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Debra Northern  
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper  
Minister Derrick Jordan  
Christopher Johnson

## CONNECT WITH US.

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

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