

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 24, 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE
LESSONS & CAROLS

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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:

*The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,
The festive mood spreading lilted magic everywhere,
The gifts of recollection calling to heart the graces of life,
The star in the sky calling to mind the wisdom of hope,
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,
The birth of a child linking past to future,
The symbol of love absorbing all violence,
This is Christmas.*

– Howard Thurman

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 Christmas, as signified by white altar pieces and clergy stoles, symbolizing joy in the light of day.

CARILLON

Introit for Christmas Eve
Cantique de Noël
Noels
What Child is This?
Silent Night
The Huron Carol
Jesus, Rest Your Head
Come, All Ye Shepherds
O Come All You Faithful

Ronald Barnes
arr. Albert Gerken
L. Daquin, arr. J. S. H. Wagenaar
arr. A. Gerken
arr. Theophil Rusterholz
arr. Milford Myhre
arr. Charles Ward
arr. Ronald Barnes
arr. Ronald Barnes

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

HANDBELLS

Seven Traditional Carol
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. John Klein

*The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director*

HARP

Selected Carol Arrangements

Carlos Salzedo

Jennifer Hoult, harp

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold him, born the
King of angels;

Chorus:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo! he rejects not the Virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Creator;

Chorus

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Chorus

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks,
draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our
joyful footsteps;

Chorus

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of God, now in flesh
appearing;

Chorus

†All who are able, please stand

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Wilkinson Family

✚CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Michael Livinston

One: On this holiest of nights...

**All: we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.**

One: On this most silent night,

**All: we come, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

One: On this night of carols and candlelight,

**All: we come, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels over us.
Come let us worship!**

OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT

Hodie (This Day)

James Whitbourn

Hodie Christus natus est. (Today Christ is born.) The holy child is born. In his love our hope does rest on this eternal morn. Cherubs with trumpets shatter the stars. Seraphs touch their strings. Saints, angels, choirs are massed. The Word seeds the heav'n in rings. In a blessed stable a picture is seen. Parents, Jesus there. An ass looking on, an ox beaming at the best hay of the year. The wise men are no longer wise: God in the crib has bewildered them. They place their gifts around the sides. Kneel and pray. Adore him. Yet in this joy is sensed a shadow, an intimation of loss. A ghostly fear of a dark tomorrow with thorns and a heavy cross. But now the heav'ns spin fast around, its jubilation day. Infinity's ears are whipped by sound, would this day so stay. Hodie Christus natus est.

FIRST LESSON

Irene King

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

(page 1 in the Old Testament)

God creates the world and humankind within it.

CAROL

Adam Lay yBounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all was for an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, ne had never our lady a-been heaven-é queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was, Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias*.

SECOND LESSON

Clarence Anderson

Genesis 22:15–18
(page 18 in the *Old Testament*)

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Ralph Vaughn Williams

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest a while:
I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive:
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive:
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Tammy Mesic, soprano

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

THIRD LESSON

Geoff Martin

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7
(page 638 in the *Old Testament*)

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

CAROL

For Unto Us a Child Is Born

G. F. Handel

FOURTH LESSON

Victoria Anderson

Micah 5:2–4

(page 865 in the Old Testament)

Micah voices Israel's hope for a Davidic ruler to bring peace.

†CAROL 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

FIFTH LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Luke 1:26–35, 38

(page 56 in the New Testament)

The angel Gabriel salutes Mary.

CAROL

Bogoroditse Devo

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Virgin mother of God, hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast brought forth the Savior who redeemed our souls.

SIXTH LESSON

Minister Charlene Wingate

Luke 2:1–7

(page 58 in the New Testament)

Jesus is born.

CAROL

The Blessed Son of God

Robert MacGimsey

The blessed son of God only in a crib full poor did lie; With our poor flesh and our poor blood was clothed that everlasting good. Kyri'eleison (Lord, have mercy). The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear, was a guest and a stranger here; Us for to bring from misery, that we might live eternally. Kyri'eleison. All this did he for us freely, for to declare his great mercy; All Christendom be merry therefore, and give him thanks for evermore. Kyri'eleison.

SEVENTH LESSON

Rev. Kevin VanHook

Luke 2:8–16

(page 58 in the New Testament)

The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

David Willcocks

Ding! Dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing! Ding! Dong! verily the sky is riven with angel-singing! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis. E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and "I-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people sungen: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis. Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

EIGHTH LESSON

Rev. Debra Northern

Matthew 2:1-11

(page 2 in the New Testament)

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss

**See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.**

Chorus

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!

Hail, redemption's happy dawn!

Sing through all Jerusalem,

Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim. Chorus**

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?**

Chorus

**"As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing peace on earth told us of the Saviour's birth". Chorus
Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,**

Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.

Chorus

**Teach, O teach us , Holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility!**

Chorus

NINTH LESSON

Rev. Michael Livingston

John 1:1-14

(page 91 in the New Testament)

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

✠CAROL 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

OFFERING

Rev. Debra Northern

HANDBELLS

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. John Klein

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?
What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes? Never
the morning star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies. What is
this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes? Shepherds, O
haste with eager footsteps seek the Savior, born today. Low at his feet we lay
our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye. Shepherds, O haste with eager
footsteps seek the Saviour, born today.

✠AT THE PRESENTATION: *In The Bleak Midwinter*

Cranham

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

What I can I give him – give my heart.

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Debra Northern

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Michael Livingston

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Open wide our hearts.

✠*All who are able, please stand*

ORISON

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

† RECESSIONAL HYMN 40

Joy to the World

Antioch

BENEDICTION

Rev. Michael Livingston

VOLUNTARY

Postlude on “Antioch”

arr. Craig Phillips

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.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events in the church, please pick up the *Life of Our Community* bulletin located in the back of the pew or outside the Welcome Center. Or visit our website www.trcnyc.org.

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Irene King, Clarence Anderson, Geoff Martin & Victoria Anderson*

LITURGICAL RESOURCES FOR TODAY

¹ reWorship.com

COVER ART:

“Coptic Nativity Scene In Bethlehem”

†All who are able, please stand



Every year, Riverside's social services and programs provide more than 50,000 neighbors with nutritious meals, quality clothing, safe places to rest, hot showers, job training, and more.

In the spirit of the holidays, we invite you to consider a special gift to Riverside in support of those we serve. We invite you to consider a generous gift during today's time of offering. To learn more please visit trcnyc.org/give.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Watchnight

Tuesday, December 31 | Nave

Carillon Recital by Charles Semowich | 10:00 p.m.

Organ Recital by Christopher Johnson | 10:30 p.m.

Worship with Rev. Michael Livingston, preaching | 11:30 p.m.

Swinging Peel of the Carillon | 12:00 midnight

PARKING - 12/24/2019

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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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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