



The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*



DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY IN 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:

When the Spirit of Christ comes into our hearts, there comes an experience
which reaches with its influence across the entire year.”

-Adam Clayton Powell Jr.

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 for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.



GATHERING

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

CARILLON

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Lord Jesus has a Garden

John Knox
arr. Ronald Barnes

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium"

David Johnson

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Jim Keat

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: Let us forever sing of your wondrous love, Oh God.

All: Let us proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

One: We will declare that your love stands firm,

All: That your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above!

One: As we prepare to welcome the ultimate gift of your son, Jesus Christ,

All: Inspire our hearts to change so we may walk in the light of your presence.

OPENING HYMN 16

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

INVOCATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Katharine, Fausto, Adrian, and Emmie Mora

INTROIT

Creator of the Stars of Night

Sarum Plainsong, Mode IV

Kendra Berentsen, soprano

Meghann Vaughn, mezzo-soprano

Erik Rasmussen, tenor

Russell Saint John, baritone

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Latoya Wilkinson

Luke 1:26-38

(pages 56 & 57 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Promise

Rev. Debra Northern

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Minister Wingate

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Colleen Birchett

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Adrienne Newcomb

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!

VENI EMMANUEL

**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

Dr. Birchett

Today we celebrate the work of our entire Music Ministry, which provides beautiful music for all our services, concerts and events, bringing glory to God through music.

CLOSING HYMN 12

People, Look East

Besançon

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.
Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Northern

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV 733)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Inspired by Psalm 89*

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Dr. Colleen Birchett,
Latoya Wilkinson & Adrienne Newcomb*

Featured on the cover left to right:

Madonna and Child artist Fr. John Giuliani

Holy Mary Empress of China artist Chu Kar Kui.

The Annunciation artist Lu Hongnian

Black Madonna and Child artist unknown

Contours of Mary's Dream artist Lauren Wright Pittman sanctifiedart.org

Mother of God: Protectress of the Oppressed artist Kelly Latimore
kellylatimoreicons.com

Our Lady of Ferguson and All Those Killed By Gun Violence artist Mark Doox
markdoox.com

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

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder, add us to your “safe sender list,” or visit [**trcnyc.org/Email**](http://trcnyc.org/Email) to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please visit [**trcnyc.org/Events**](http://trcnyc.org/Events) for more information and to download a copy.

WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG

If you need more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit [**trcnyc.org/online**](http://trcnyc.org/online) to watch the Sunday morning Livestream, videos of the sermon and the choirs, and more. Be sure to watch The Word Made Fresh, our weekly video Bible Study, and catch up on Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast.

CONNECT WITH US.

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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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