



The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*



DECEMBER 27, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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:

“Muthuri aikariire njung’wa onaga kuraya gukira kihii ki muti iguru.”
-Kikuyu proverb of Kenya

Literal translation: An old man sitting on a three legged stool sees farther than a young man who is atop a tree.

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 Christmastide where we celebrate the birth of the Christ child we have been waiting for throughout the Advent season. Christmastide is signified by white paraments and clergy stoles. The season concludes with Epiphany Sunday when we celebrate the visit of the Magi.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Variations on Westminster

Richard Von Grabow

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Prelude on "Greensleeves"

R. V. Williams, arr. Stanley Roper

Christopher Johnson, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Annah Heckman

One: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

All: God is there.

One: When they present Jesus at the temple,

All: God is there.

One: On this very morning and in the future we can not see,

All: God is there, Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN 41

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!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,

Born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father,

Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest! *Refrain***

INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Athena Wilkinson

Luke 2:25-40

(page 59 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Amanda Meisenheimer

It Had To Be Anna

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Harper

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

Annah Heckman

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Meighan Corbett

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Midwinter

arr. Bob Chilcott

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise one, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Liz Lang, soprano

Meghann Vaughn, mezzo-soprano

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Harper

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Personnel & Salary Committee, which partners with our staff to create an organizational culture where every member of our staff team is valued for their contributions to our collective ministry and treated with dignity and respect.

CLOSING HYMN 40

Joy to the World!

Antioch

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow**

Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Amanda Meisenheimer

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Adapted from *Worship Ways*, https://www.ucc.org/christmas_1_or_2_december_27_or_january_3

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Athena Wilkinson

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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