



# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*



DECEMBER 6, 2020  
SECOND 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:

“Every human interaction offers you the chance to make things better or to make things worse.”

-Barbara Brown Taylor

---

## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

---

## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Prepare the Way

*Geert d'Hollander*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Pastorella (BWV 590)

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

I. Alla Siciliane 2. Allemande

Chorale Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium"

*John Blackburn*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jim Keat

One: Let us hear God's tender words for a burdened people.

**All: Comfort, comfort, my people! The days of sorrow are ending!**

One: Let us hear God's encouraging words for an anxious people.

**All: Prepare a way for the Holy One, make room to receive our God!**

One: Let us hear God's vision for a weary people.

**All: Open our eyes to see God's presence all around us.**

**Come, let us worship!**

### OPENING HYMN 13

Prepare the Way

*Bereden väg för Herran*

Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.

*Refrain:*

*Oh, blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.*

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain*

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace.  
And tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him. *Refrain***

**INVOCATION**

Rev. Keat

*Karen McVoy, soprano*

*Irene Ryan King, mezzo-soprano*

*Daniel Cucura, tenor*

*Andrew Feyer, baritone*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

The Veenstra-Vanderweele Family

**INTROIT**

Comfort, Comfort You My People

*Genevan Psalter*

**LISTENING**

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

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Wiltona Watson

Isaiah 40:1-11

*(page 35 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Debra Northern

Comfort For Such A Time As This

**RESPONDING**

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

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE**

Lee Sartain

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

And the Glory

*George Frideric Handel*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

## VENI EMMANUEL

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

Rev. Keat

*Today we celebrate the work of our Budget and Planning Committee, which reviews, advises and monitors our budgetary activities to support our financial health.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Northern

*Following each petition, please join in the following response:*

One: God, our hope in our time of need.

**All: hear our prayer.**

## 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

Rev. Keat

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Livingston

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**


One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**


One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**


## SANCTUS




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;



heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.



Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God. —



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

### CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!**

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!**

**CLOSING HYMN 2**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

*Hyfrydol*

**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.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Northern

**POSTLUDE**

Fugue on "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland"

*Max Gulbins*

---

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Wiltona Watson & Lee Sartain*

**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](http://sanctifiedart.org)

*Mother of God: Protectress of the Oppressed* artist Kelly Latimore  
[kellylatimoreicons.com](http://kellylatimoreicons.com)

*Our Lady of Ferguson and All Those Killed By Gun Violence* artist Mark Doox  
[markdoox.com](http://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.

---

**Rev. Michael Livingston**  
Interim Senior Minister  
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

---

## Pastoral and Program Staff

**Meighan Corbett**  
Director of Stewardship & Development  
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Creaghan**  
Associate Organist  
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper**  
Minister of Older Adults  
lharper@trcnyc.org

**Rich Glassey**  
Executive Director of Operations  
rglassey@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Johnson**  
Director of Music and Organist  
cjohnson@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Jim Keat**  
Digital Minister  
jkeat@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Bruce Lamb**  
Minister of Faith Formation  
blamb@trcnyc.org

**Amanda Meisenheimer**  
Minister of Children & Families  
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Debra Northern**  
Minister of Parish Care  
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

**Carrie Quarquesso**  
Coordinator for Worship & Arts  
cquarquesso@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Kevin VanHook**  
Minister of Justice, Advocacy, & Change  
kvanhook@trcnyc.org

## CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

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



[trcnyc.org](http://trcnyc.org)



**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK