



The Riverside Church
in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*



JANUARY 3, 2021
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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 I speak of doing one’s first works over, I am referring to the movement of the human soul in crisis, which, then, is forced to reexamine the depths from which it comes in order to strike water from the rock of inheritance.”

-from The Evidence of Things Not Seen by James Baldwin

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

We Three Kings of Orient Are

arr. Albert Gerken

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Divinum Mysterium

Richard Purvis

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kevin VanHook

One: On this day we remember the precious gift of Christ.

All: Light of the world, we welcome you.

One: On this day we remember God's grace upon our lives.

All: Light of the world, we thank you.

One: God of love, draw us closer to you as we gather on this day.

All: Restore and renew us through Christ as we come together to worship.

OPENING HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**

INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 2:1-7

(pages 245 & 246 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Rev. Livingsgton

SERMON

Begin Again

Rev. Livingsgton

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Jose Berrios

OFFERTORY SOLO

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, Seraphim round him their vigil will keep; Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation: A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

Tammy Mesic, 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

Minister Charelene Wingate

Today we celebrate the work of our Shower Ministry, which provides a safe, private, and sanitary space for those in need of a warm shower and laundry service. This is a ministry that has remained a sanctuary and a place of respite for unsheltered people each week.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. VanHook

Following our 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

Minister Wingate

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.

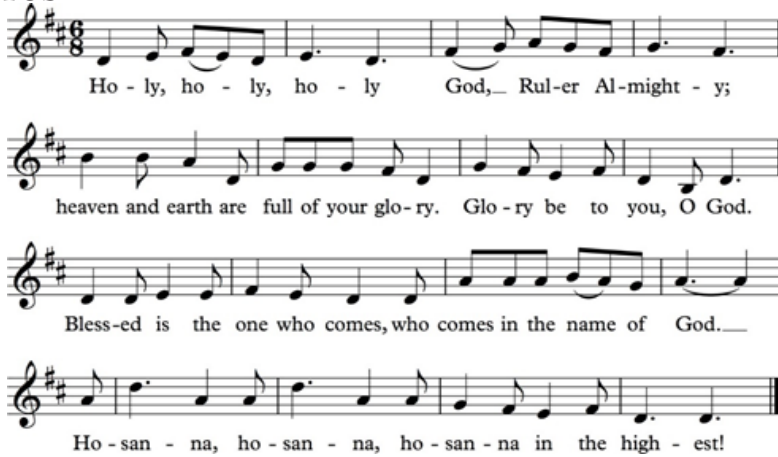
All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

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 28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart, and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman

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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