

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 5, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
PEACE

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

“Yes, this text signals the way of God. However, God employs us as resilient construction crews to pave paths for our way back to peace. Advent is also about our coming and going, the ways we journey toward new horizons of harmony and embody the reconstructive ways of the Lord. God invades the world through human beings, the us that is fiercely enriched by our differences, daily inviting the world back toward peace. We—ordinary, imperfect, diverse humanity the world over—are God’s infrastructure plan for humanity.”

- *Willie Dwayne Francois III*

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## 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.

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### **Whats happening at Riverside?**

Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below.



### **Give by your phone**

Make an offering using your smartphone by opening your camera and scanning the code below.

Or text TRCNYCGIVE to  
833.833.4035.



## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Grant us Peace  
With Peace and Joy, I Go There  
Hymn of Peace  
Prelude for Peace

*Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Bob van de Linde*  
*Martin Luther, arr. Johann Th. Lemckert*  
*Roel van Ooston*  
*Gerald Finzi, arr., Austin Ferguson*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Choral Prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium'  
Chorale from Cantata 140, Wachet Auf<sup>1</sup>

*John Blackburn*  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*  
*Tenor section of the Riverside Choir*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### ✦CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>2</sup>

Rev. Jim Keat

One: Blessed be the God of Israel!

**All: A God of favor, grace and redemption.**

One: A God who raised up a mighty Savior for us in the house of David.

**All: That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**All: Jesus Christ, our Savior is coming to guide our feet into the way of peace. Let us embrace this peace as we enter into worship.**

### ✦INVOCATION

### ✦OPENING HYMN 17

*Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.*

**"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us**

*Wachet Auf*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Joanne, Tasha, & Sonaya Toran

### INTROIT

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

### LISTENING

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister Derrick Jordan

*In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

✦*All who are able, please stand*

## ✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Bruce Lamb

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## ANTHEM

### In That Great Gettin' Up Morning

*arr. Jester Hairston*

I'm going tell you about the coming of the judgment, fare ye well, fare ye well,  
There's a better day a coming, fare ye well, fare ye well, in that great gettin' up  
morning, fare ye well, fare ye well.

Oh, preacher, fold your bible, before the last soul's converted. Blow your trumpet  
Gabriel. Lord, how loud shall I blow it? Blow it right calm and easy. Do not  
alarm all my people, tell them all to come to the judgment.

Then you see them coffins busting, then you see the folks arising, then you  
see the world on fire, then you see the stars a falling, then you see that fork of  
lightning, then you hear that rumbling thunder. Fare ye well, poor sinner, fare ye  
well, fare ye well.

*Russell Saint John, baritone*

*Kendra Berentsen, soprano*

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Keat

Malachi 3:1-4

*(pages 889 & 890 in the Old Testament)*

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠HYMN 14

*Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.*

**Savior of the Nations, Come**

*Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Chiara Fuller

Luke 3:1-6

*(page 60 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Livingston

Peace at the Edge: John

## 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

✠*All who are able, please stand*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *Edward Bairstow*  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence and stand with fear and trembling, and lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our redeemer, and to be given for food to the faithful. Before him come the choirs of angels with every principality and power; the cherubim with many eyes, and winged seraphim, who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn: Alleluia!

**†AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL**

*The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God. Please meditate silently and refrain from singing.*

**O Come, thou Wisdom from on high; And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show; And help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**†PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Rev. Keat

*Today we celebrate the ongoing work of our Coming Home Ministry, which continues to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Livingston

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

One: O Christ our light is coming.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Pray in the language or version of your heart.*

**Our Father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be Your name.**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial, deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CHORAL AMEN**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Rev. Lamb

**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.

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

**†***All who are able, please stand*

## SANCTUS

*Please meditate silently, and refrain from singing.*

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

*Please meditate silently, and refrain from singing.*

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!**

*The ushers will distribute single serve cups containing both juice and a small wafer sealed in between the plastic film on the top. If you need assistance, the ushers are available. For the safety of our staff and volunteers, we ask that you please hold onto your empty cups until the end of the service, and dispose of them safely in the trash cans provided as you exit the Nave. For those worshipping online, you may join us at this time with your own gathered elements as we take communion as one church together.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

†All who are able, please stand

**ORGAN** Creator of the Stars of Night

*arr. Robert Hebble*

**CHOIR** Creator of the Stars of Night

*arr. Dale Wood*

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, O Christ, thou Saviour of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call. To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole creation groan. Till thou, Redeemer shouldst free thine own in glorious liberty. And when the world drew on toward night, thou camest, not in splendor bright as monarch, but the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild. At thy great name of Jesus now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: and things celestial thee shall own, of things terrestrial, Lord alone. Come in thy holy might, we pray; redeem us for eternal day. Defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe. To God Creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one. Laud, honor, might, and glory be, from age to age eternally. Amen.

**†CLOSING HYMN 489**

*Please meditate silently on the hymn and refrain from singing.*

**Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

*Unser Herrscher*

*SENDING*

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

**†BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata on 'Veni Emanuel'

*Andrew Carter*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Chiara Fuller & Lee Sartain*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Sung in German. See the opening hymn 17, verse 2, for English translation.*

<sup>2</sup>*Inspired by Luke 1:68-79*

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**†***All who are able, please stand*

## 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

## 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.

## JOIN OUR WEEKLY SERMON TALKBACK

Go deeper with the sermons from The Riverside Church every Sunday after worship for a sermon talkback as part of Virtual Coffee Hour. Visit [trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour](http://trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour) to join us online or go to 411 MLK to join us in person. If you are unable to join the live conversation you can listen to After the Amen, our weekly sermon talkback podcast, as Riverside clergy and congregants talk with Sunday's preacher about how their sermon resonates in our lives and in our world. Visit [trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen](http://trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen) to listen now.

## RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) 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!

## DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://trcnyc.org/app) to download the app and stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS

Fall and Winter 2021 Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 p.m. and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals](http://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.

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## PARKING - 12/5/2021

**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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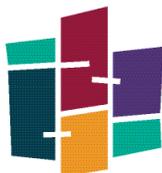
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**CONTACT US:**

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



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