

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

## IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE  
DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 11:00 AM

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

## **WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.**

As you prepare your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote:

“If a child is to keep alive [their] inborn sense of wonder ... [they] need the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with [them] the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”

— Rachel Carson

## **A question for reflection:**

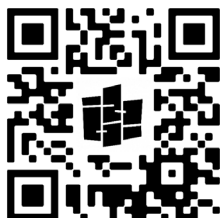
What are your childhood experiences with church Christmas pageants?

## **What's happening at Riverside?**

You can find a printed calendar listed in the back of your bulletin!

## **Give by your phone.**

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



## **Cover art by Jamil De Honney.**

*Inspired by James 1:27.*

*We are on the Advent journey to Bethlehem tasked with living a religion that is true.  
This Advent II, we focus on PEACE and the way in which it sets us free.*

*Riverside worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online.  
If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, we invite you to sit in the balcony.*



## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Veni Emanuel  
Stuttgart  
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

arr. Beverly Buchanan  
arr. Buchanan  
J.S. Bach, arr. Wesley Arai

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

### STRING ENSEMBLE

*Carols for Christmas*  
Ukrainian Bell Carol  
Patapan  
Sing we now of Christmas

arr. Jeremy Corcoran

The Riverside Youth String Ensemble  
Kristina Giles, *director*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Min. Derrick T. Jordan

### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup> *standing as able*

*One:* Here we are, the young and old,

***All:* The believing and doubting,**

*One:* The weak and strong.

***All:* Here God is, almighty and merciful,**

*One:* Gracious and just,

***All:* Trustworthy and true.**

*One:* So since we are here, and God is here,

***All:* let us worship God.**

### INVOCATION *remain standing*

### OPENING HYMN 2 *remain standing, sung by all*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

<sup>1</sup> Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Sally and Mark Riddles

### INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### LISTENING

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

### HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Heather Imperiale

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

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 13** *standing as able, sung by all*

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-4

Julian Wharton

*One:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

### Who Will Show Us the Way?

A Christmas Pageant adapted from *Young Children and Worship*  
by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman  
Adaptation by Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

The Riverside Rising Voices  
Cherub Choir  
The Riverside String Ensemble

Matthew Hommez, *Rising Voices Director*  
Sharon Pritchard, *Cherub Choir Director*  
Kristina Giles, *String Ensemble Director*  
Amanda Meisenheimer, *Original Script*  
Yuliya Basis, *Pianist*  
Veronica Mittenzwei, *Choreographer*  
Thomas Price, *Set Design*

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Adriene Thorne

### RESPONDING

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

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

*We have heard the word of God read and proclaimed. Now let us pray together.*

*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

**All:** 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.

## CHORAL AMEN

## PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

**One:** The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Welcome, Welcome, Dear Redeemer

César Franck

*Welcome, welcome, dear Redeemer. Welcome to this heart of mine. Lord, I make a full  
surrender. Every power and thought be thine; Thine entirely, through eternal ages thine.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit into every troubled breast. Let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find thy promised rest. Amen.*

Juan José Ibarra, baritone

## AT THE PRESENTATION *standing as able, sung by all*

VENI EMMANUEL

*The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.*

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION** *remain standing* Rev. Charlene Wingate

*Today we celebrate the ministry of our Riverside Limitless Worship, which provides a sacred space for children and youth to connect with God in song, movement, art, and storytelling.*

**CLOSING HYMN 12** *remain standing, sung by all*  
People, Look East

BESANÇON

**BENEDICTION** *remain standing* Rev. Adriene Thorne

**POSTLUDE**  
Fughetta on “People Look East” Richard Shepard

Alan Montgomery, *organist*



**Leonard Bopp** is a conductor and trumpet player currently based in New York City. In his early career, Leonard has emerged as a generous collaborator, thoughtful curator, and electric performer with a broad repertoire.

Fiercely committed to the music of our time, Leonard founded the BlackBox Ensemble, a New York-based contemporary music ensemble devoted to producing culturally resonate projects rooted in creative experimentation, while still a student. Under his leadership, BlackBox has grown into one of the most ambitious emerging ensembles in New York’s contemporary music landscape.

After graduating from The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, where he studied trumpet with Raymond Mase, Leonard attended Williams College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and English. Leonard went on to earn his MM in orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, where he studied with Kenneth Kiesler.

In the summer of 2022, Leonard was selected as a recipient of the American Austrian Foundation/Faber Young Conductors Fellowship at the Salzburg Festival, where he was invited to observe rehearsals of the Vienna Philharmonic, opera productions, and visiting ensembles at the festival. In the summer of 2023, he will attend the Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Seminar as well as the Divertimento Ensemble 20th and 21st Century Conducting Course in Moncalvo, Italy.

## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

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*Children and youth will remain in the Nave today for the Christmas Pageant.*

<b>Fresh Start</b>	Online	8:30 AM
<b>The Seekers Book Study</b>	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
<b>Open Bible Study</b>	330 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew</b>	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>Church Nursery Open</b>	See Usher or Security for Location	10:30 AM
<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
<b>Christmas Pageant</b>	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	South Hall	After Service
<b>Virtual Coffee Hour</b>	Online	12:30 PM
<b>Intermediate-Advanced Biblical Hebrew</b>	314 MLK & Online	1:30 PM
<b>Business &amp; Professional Women's Group</b>	321 MLK	1:30 PM
<b>Maranatha Meeting</b>	MPR	1:30 PM
<b>African Fellowship Meeting</b>	311 MLK	1:30 PM
<b>Thunderbird American Indian Dance Workshop</b>	Assembly Hall	1:30 PM
<b>Service of Hope and Consolation</b>	Christ Chapel	2:00 PM
<b>Carillon Recital: A Wintery Walk</b>		3:00 PM

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	411 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Tai Chi</b>	Cloister Lounge (Child Care Room)	3:00 PM
<b>MSJ Commission Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>MCPL Commission Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>Worship Commission Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>Education Commission Meeting</b>	Online	7:00 PM

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Nominating Committee Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>A Night of Light</b>	Park Avenue Synagogue & Online	7:00 PM



### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Older Adults French Group</b>	321 MLK	10:30 AM
<b>Advanced Beginners Biblical Hebrew II</b>	Online	5:00 PM
<b>Young Adult Bible Study</b>	313 MLK & Online	6:30 PM

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	411 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Tower League Bible Study</b>	10T	11:00 AM
<b>Tower League Christmas Luncheon</b>	Assembly Hall	12:00 PM
<b>Handel: Judas Maccabaeus (HWV 63)</b>	Nave	7:00 PM

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>MCD's Nutcracker</b>	The Riverside Theater	7:00 PM

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

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<b>Knitters &amp; Crocheters</b>	7C	10:00 AM
<b>The Parents Circle: "United in Grief"</b>	Online	10:30 AM
<b>MCD's Nutcracker</b>	The Riverside Theater	2:00 PM

### COMING SOON

<b>Bs &amp; Ps Christmas Tea</b>	Sunday, December 17	1:00 PM
<b>Candlelight Carol Festival</b>	Sunday, December 17	4:00 PM
<b>Christmas Eve: Children &amp; Families</b>	Sunday, December 24	4:00 PM
<b>Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols</b>	Sunday, December 24	7:00 PM
<b>New Year's Eve Watch Night Service</b>	Sunday, December 31	11:00 PM
<b>Space for Grace</b>	Wednesday, January 10	7:00 PM



Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](https://trcnyc.org/LOC) or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

## 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. Adriene Thorne, Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

### RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at [trcnyc.org/email](http://trcnyc.org/email). If you're not receiving them, add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) to your "Safe Sender list."

### MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE

Membership is about responding to God's call on your life to step up and belong to this community as you pursue the passion God has set in your heart. By joining The Riverside Church you are taking the next step to partner with us as we seek to cultivate a community of justice, peace, and love that transforms the world. Visit [trcnyc.org/membership](http://trcnyc.org/membership) to find out more.

### 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

These recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 PM 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 and programs.

### SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

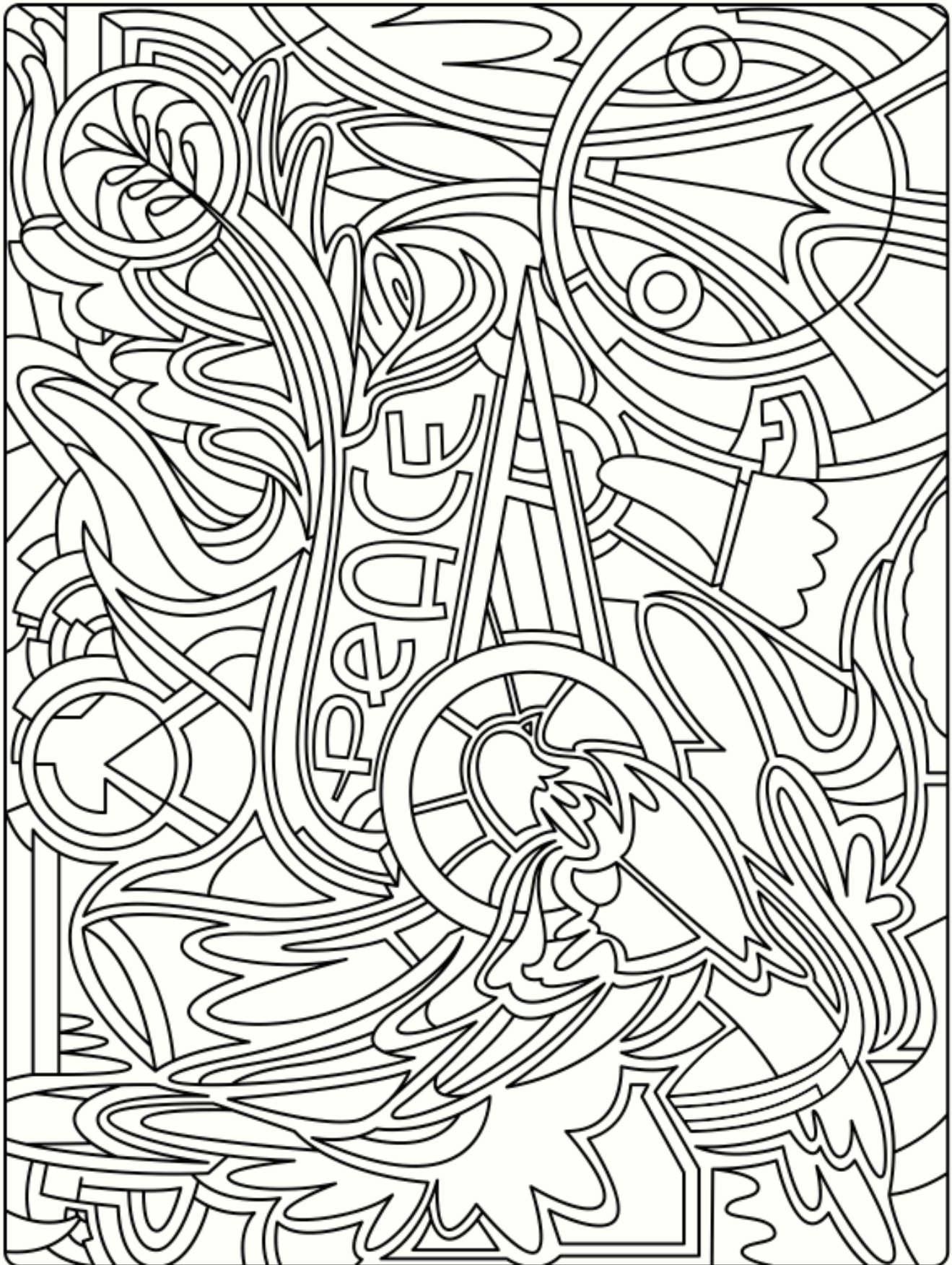
Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this bulletin and your parking ticket to the attendant on the upper level to receive this discounted rate, pay, and pick up your car. This discounted rate applies to Sundays only.

### CHURCH NURSERY

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM and is staffed by trained nursery workers. For location, please see an usher or security guard.

### VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to serving in our Communion and Greeters ministries, providing support in our Food Pantry and Clothing Distribution programs, to making a digital impact through our Digital Ministry, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, establish connections with those who share your passion and purpose, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Join Riverside's volunteer family and let your light shine in all the ways that matter. Visit [trcnyc.org/volunteer](http://trcnyc.org/volunteer) for more information.



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## CONNECT WITH US

### Rev. Adriene Thorne

Senior Minister

To reach Rev. Thorne, please contact Kathrin Gabriel-Jones, Executive Assistant at [kgabriel-jones@trcnyc.org](mailto:kgabriel-jones@trcnyc.org)

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### Pastoral Staff

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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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