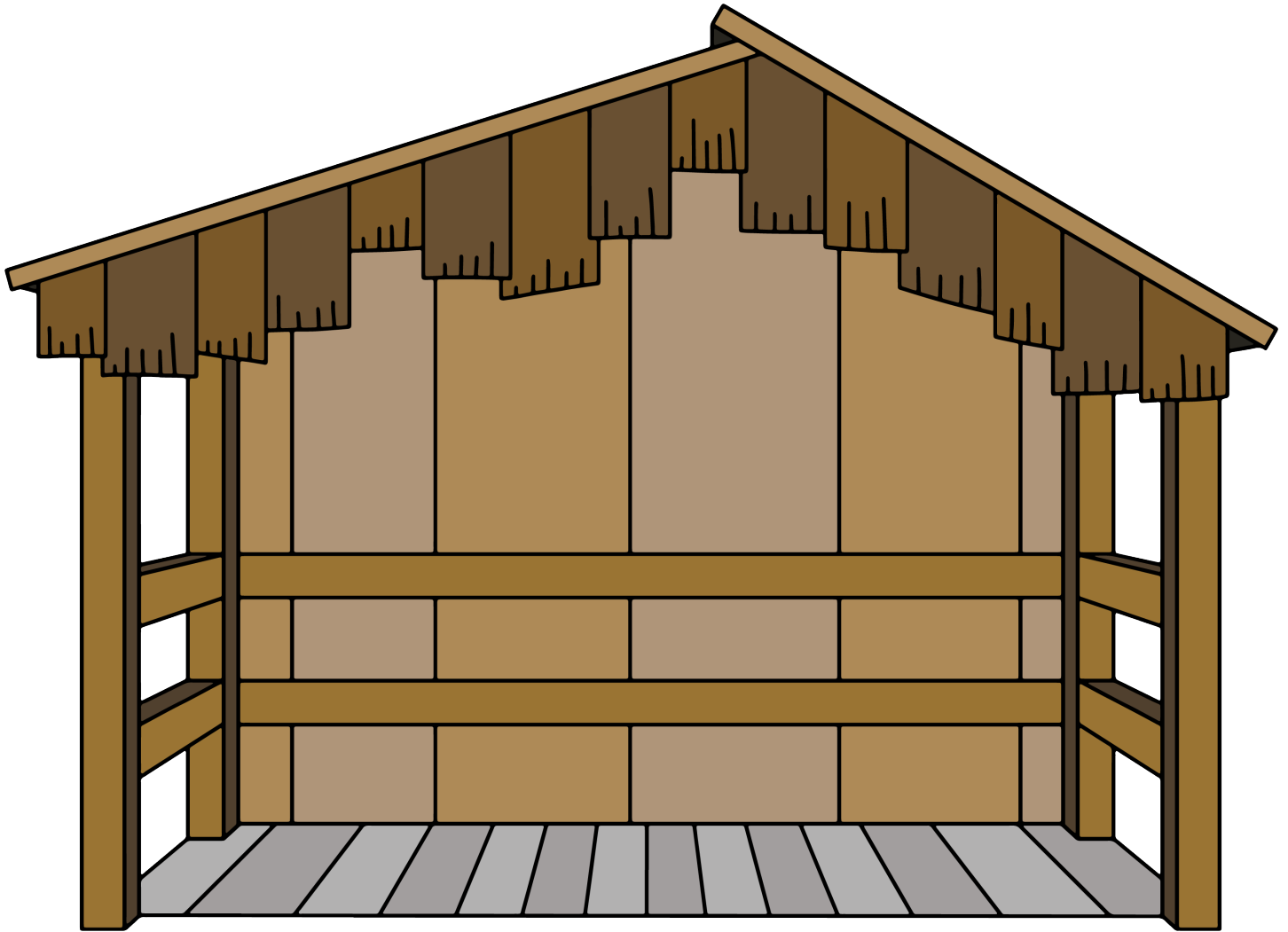


THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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CHRISTMAS EVE: FAMILY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 4:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

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

NATIVITY PLAY CAST

in order of appearance

Angel – Victoria Anderson

Mary – Rev. Charlene Wingate

Joseph – Mark Yim

Innkeeper – Jacqueline Gregg

Shepherd – Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Magi – Rev. Adriene Thorne, Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

MUSICIANS

Matt King, *piano and melodica*

Jennifer Vincent, *bass*

Steve Johns, *drums*

Cover art reprinted from Illustrated Children's Ministry.

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.



PRELUDE

Matt King, *piano and melodica*
Jennifer Vincent, *bass*
Steve Johns, *drums*

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Hairston Family
Jerome, Sheree, Jerry, and Kendall

CAROL

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!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP *standing as able*

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

One: The angel came to Mary and said, "Call him Emmanuel."

All: God is with us.

One: He was born among the poor people and cared for the people who felt rejected.
Call him Emmanuel.

All: God is with us.

One: He shared a message of love and forgiveness from God and told the people to repent.
Call him Emmanuel.

All: God is with us.

One: We celebrate the birth of Jesus because in him all things are made new.
Call him Emmanuel.

All: God is with us.

One: Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Son of God, Light of the world.
Call him Emmanuel.

All: God is with us.

One: Call him Emmanuel.

All: God is with us.

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING¹

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

¹ From the International Children's Bible.

CAROL
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 nature sing.

CAROL
O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

CAROL
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

CAROL
Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

CAROL
Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

OFFERING

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

CAROL
What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

CHRISTMAS HONOREES

Contributions were made to support Riverside's Flower Ministry
and to honor these loved ones in all of our lives.



Dorothy Garvin in honor of Carol Garvin.

Gentle and Quiet. Faced adversity with aplomb, calmness and dignity.

Karen Byrd in memory of Patricia Grant.

Bobbie Maniece-Harrison in memory of my parents, John & Susie Maniece.

Roger Thomas in honor of Angelo Arteaga.

Valeria Spann in honor of Rev. Dr. Debra Northern.

Thank you our dear former minister.

Julian Suez in memory of Rhoda How.

Jack, Denise, & Bridget Bolan in memory of Gordon & Angie DeVeau.

With all our love always.

**Clarence and Emily Anderson, in memory of Albert and Bertha Anderson
and Curtis and Justine Butler, our parents.**

Lorraine Burchall in memory of my sister Ruth Burchall-Sanseviro.

I am inspired everyday by the way she lived her life.

Keith Shepherd in honor of Monica Lyn.

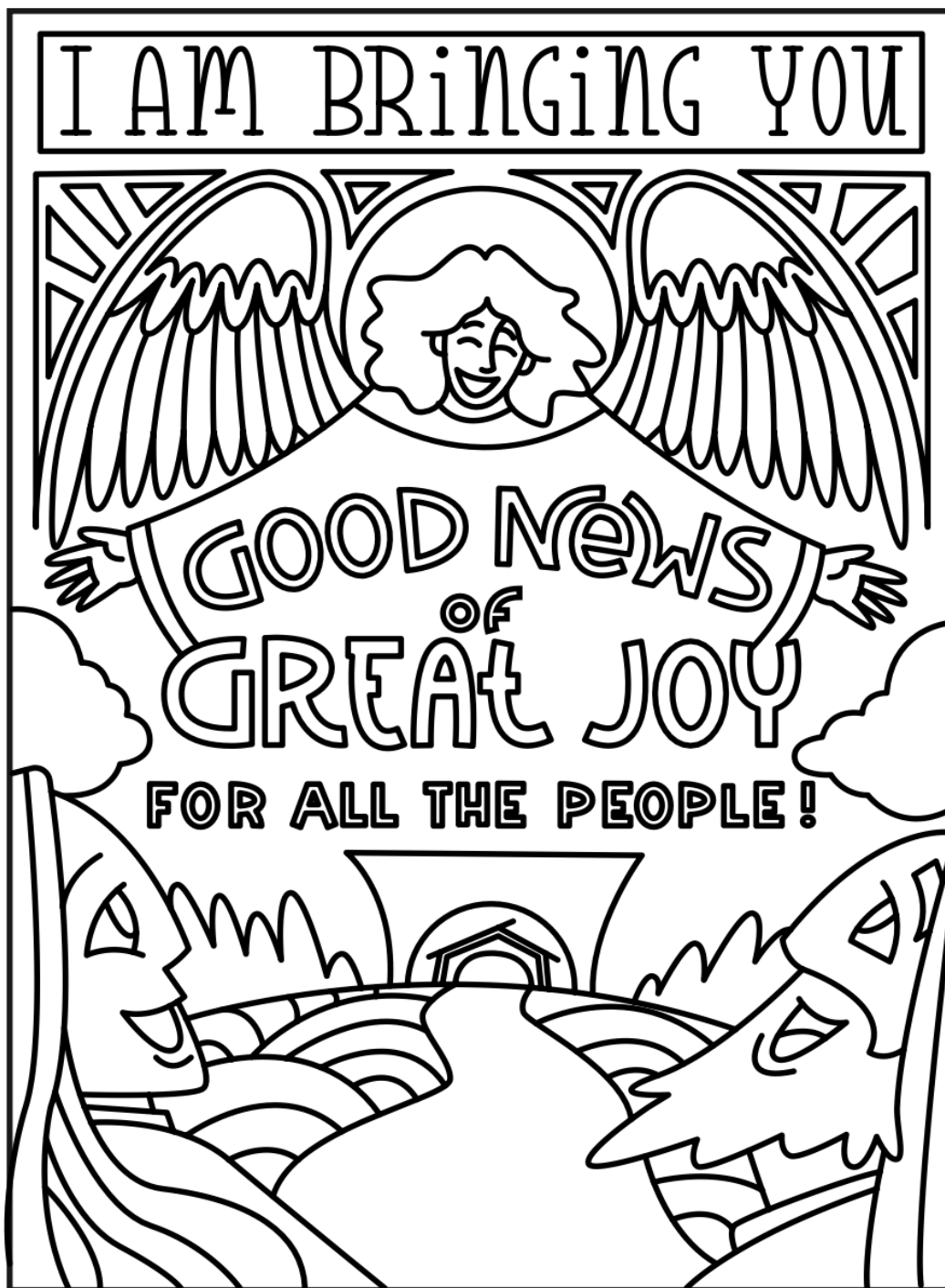
Thanks for being you.

**Evelyn Davis in loving memory of my parents, Lillie and Ashley Davis
and my brothers, William and Daniel Davis.**

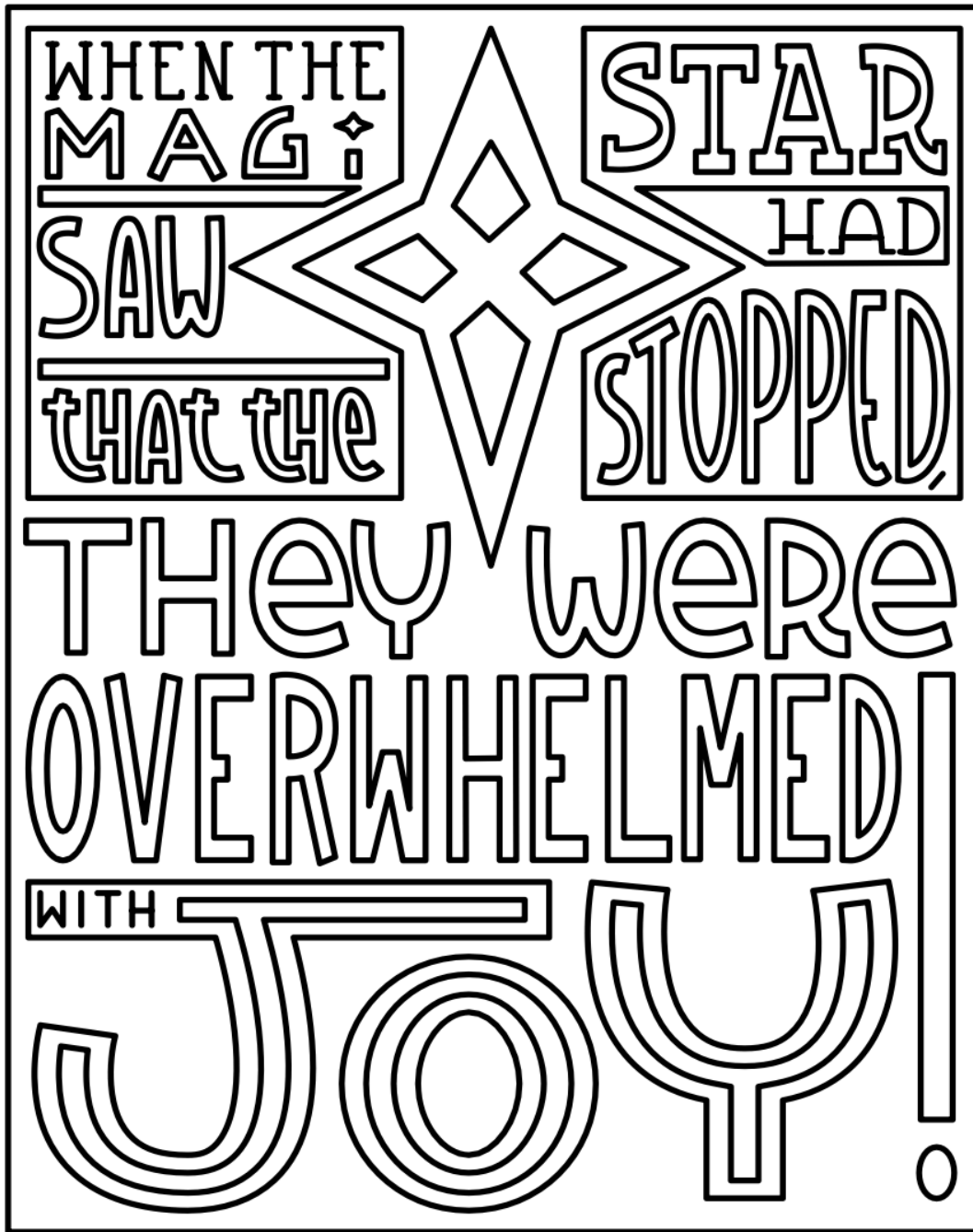
**Nana and Papa Sherlock in honor of our granddaughters,
Alexandra and Sara Pascarelli.**

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Matthew 2: 13-23 and Luke 2: 1-20.



COLOR IN THE WORDS



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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 A. Forbes, Jr., 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. If you're not receiving them, add 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 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 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 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 for more information.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online
New Year's Eve Watch Night Service | 11:00 PM | Nave & Online

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Space for Grace | 7:00 PM | 9T & Online

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online
Joy Regardless Concert | 5:00 PM | Nave

What's happening at Riverside?

Find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.



Give by your phone.

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



CONNECT WITH US

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Senior Minister

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