

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY
DECEMBER 17, 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:

“It started that way: laughing children, dancing men, crying women and then it got mixed up. Women stopped crying and danced; men sat down and cried; children danced, women laughed, children cried until, exhausted and riven, all and each lay about the Clearing damp and gasping for breath. In the silence that followed, Baby Suggs, holy, offered up to them her great big heart...She told them that the only grace they could have was the grace they could imagine. That if they could not see it, they would not have it. Here,’ she said, ‘in this here place, we flesh; flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare feet in grass. Love it. Love it hard...”

— Toni Morrison

A question for reflection:

What restores joy for you during this Advent season?

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 III, we focus on JOY and the many ways God invites us to restore joy in our lives.

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

From Heaven Above
Three Verses on Buinessan

arr. Richard Giszczak
Ennis Fruhauf

Carla Staffaroni, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
Pastorale from Sonata No.1

Johann Sebastian Bach
Alexandre Guilmant

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Jim Keat

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ (based on a poem by Rumi) *standing as able*

One: Perhaps we have come in search of joy this day.

***All:* Does it move from unmarked box to unmarked box?**

One: Is it found in the water that changes to wine?

***All:* Is it within us, or outside of us?**

One: What I know is this: joy comes from God,

***All:* a gift to be celebrated and shared.**

One: So let us worship God with joy.

INVOCATION *remain standing*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 9 *remain standing, sung by all*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Audrey Cox St. Clair and Paul St. Clair

INTROIT

Rorate Coeli

Josef Rheinberger

*Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Let the earth be opened and bud forth a savior.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Min. Derrick T. Jordan

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Marty Wheeler Burnett

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.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Mark Yim

Luke 2:25-32

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

HYMN 14 *standing as able, sung by all*
Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4, 10-13

Blanche Colson and Ryan Swihart

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Joy: True Religion Weeps & Laughs

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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

And the Glory of the Lord

George Frederick Handel

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

AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL *standing as able, sung by all*

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. Dr. Colleen Birchett

*Today we celebrate the work of our entire Music Ministry, which provides beautiful music for
all of our services, concerts and events, bringing glory to God through music.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN 15 *remain standing, sung by all*

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C, BWV 564

Johann Sebastian Bach

Alan Montgomery, organist



Leonard Bopp (guest conductor) is a conductor and trumpet player currently based in New York City. In his early career, Leonard 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 attended 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 17

Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Open Bible Study	330 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Courageous Conversations	South Hall	9:45 AM
Church Nursery Open	See Usher or Security for Location	10:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	12:30 PM
MCD's Nutcracker	The Riverside Theater	1:00 PM
B's & P's Annual Christmas Tea	9T	1:00 PM
Intermediate-Advanced Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	1:30 PM
Men's Ministry Meeting	311 MLK	1:30 PM
Carillon Recital: Candlelight Carol Festival	Nave & Online	3:00 PM
Candlelight Carol Festival	Nave & Online	4:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tai Chi	Cloister Lounge (Child Care Room)	3:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	Online	5:30 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Building Committee Meeting	Online	6:00 PM
Ordination Committee Meeting	Online	6:45 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Budget & Planning Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Winter Wonderland	South Hall & Christ Chapel	2:00 PM
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UPCOMING CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online
Christmas Eve Children & Families Service | 4:00 PM | Nave & Online
Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service | 7:00 PM | Nave & Online

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



Visit 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 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

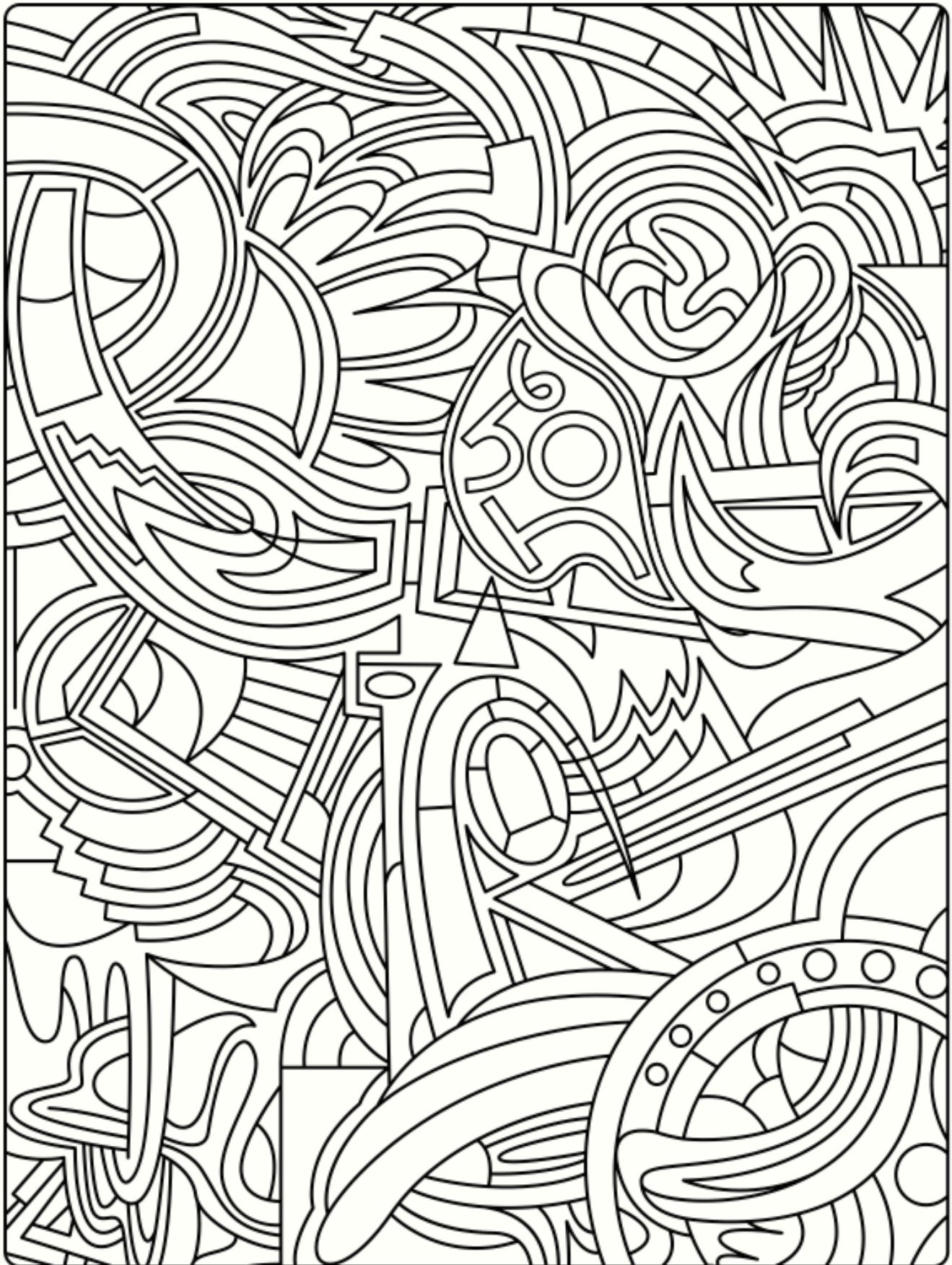
Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this bulletin and your parking ticket to the attendant on the upper level to receive this discounted rate, pay, and pick up your car. This discounted rate applies to Sundays only.

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.



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For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/
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trcnyc.org



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