



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Candlelight **CAROL FESTIVAL**

Sunday, December 15, 2024 · 4:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES & ASL INTERPRETATION

Assisted listening devices are available for those who need them, and ASL interpretation is provided on select Sundays. Please see an usher to request a device or to find the best seating for viewing the interpreters.

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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS

Recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals for the complete schedule and programs.

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.

VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to providing support in our social services programs, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at trcnyc.org/email. Be sure to add communications@trcnyc.org to your "Safe Sender list."

DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit trcnyc.org/app to stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

*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.*



Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more



Give By Your Phone

Text TRCNycGIVE to 833.833.4035



What's happening at Riverside?

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



Candlelight Carol Festival

The Riverside Choir

Alan Montgomery, *Interim Director of Music & Organist*
James Bagwell, *guest conductor*

The Riverside Inspirational Choir

Nedra Olds Neal, *director*

The Riverside Rising Voices

Matthew Hommez, *director*

The Riverside Youth Choir

Matthew Hommez, *director*

The Riverside Ringers

Daniel Potter, *director*

Instrumentalists

Yuliya Basis, *piano*
Matt King, *piano*
Jonathon Peretz, *percussion*
Mark Peterson, *bass*
Karen Tay, *harp*
Carla Staffaroni, *carillon*
Miranda Sielaff, *viola*
Gabrielle Sanderson, *flute*

Soloists

Juan José Ibarra, *bass*
Kendra Petuch, *soprano*
Yiselle Blum, *alto*
Jasmine Ismail, *soprano*

ASL Interpreters

Avery Gordon
Patrice Harrington

Please note the unauthorized use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Out of courtesy to the performers and everyone in the audience, please refrain from using cell phones and other electronic devices.

† We invite all who are willing and able to stand and join in singing.

PRELUDE

CARILLON

Veni Emmanuel arr. Theophil Rusterholz

What Sweeter Music John Rutter
arr. Austin Ferguson

What Child is This? Old English
arr. Raymond Keldermans

O Tannenbaum Traditional
arr. Mathieu Daniël Polak

The First Noel Traditional
arr. Frank Péchin Law

Angels We Have Heard on High Old French Melody
arr. Milford Myhre

HANDBELLS

The First Noel arr. Kevin McChesney

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day John Baptiste Calkin
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

ORGAN AND HARP

Selected Carols Carlos Salzedo

Aria in Classic Style Marcel Grandjany

I. THE PROCESSIONS

THE LESSER PROCESSION

Of Eternal Love Begotten 13th Century Plainsong

*Of eternal love begotten,
e'er the world began to be,
God is Alpha and Omega,
she the source, the ending he;
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, her praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before her,
and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee with God Creator,
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,*

*Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
Honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.*

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 8:1, 22-24, 27-31 Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver
(Pew Bible p. 590)

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding
raise her voice?

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When
there were no depths I was brought forth, when there
were no springs abounding with water.

When he established the heavens, I was there, when
he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he
made firm the skies above, when he established the
fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea
its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his
command, when he marked out the foundations
of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master
worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before
him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and
delighting in the human race.

INTROIT: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong, Mode 1

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily.
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel!*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's cold shadows put to flight.*

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner
(Pew Bible p. 58)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be registered.
This was the first registration and was taken while
Quirinius was governor of Syria.

† We invite all who are willing and able to stand and join in singing.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.

Refrain

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

Refrain

THE GREATER PROCESSION

HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High † GLORIA

All:

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

**HYMN: Angels from
the Realms of Glory †**

REGENT SQUARE

All:

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:

Refrain

COLLECT

Rev. Jabe Ziino

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. Amen.

II. THE CAROLS

Room In My Heart

Mark Burrows

I'm making room in my heart for love. Room for the baby. No, I don't mean maybe. Room in my heart for love. I'm making room in my heart for peace. I'm making room in my heart for joy. I'm making room for the baby. No, I don't mean maybe. Room in my heart for joy!

What Child Is This?

arr. Paul Halley

*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?*

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

*Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?*

† We invite all who are willing and able to stand and join in singing.

*Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

**Seek Him That
Maketh the Seven Stars**

Jonathan Dove

*Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
and the night is light about me. Amen.*

O Holy Night

Adolph Adam

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from distant lands,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!*

ORGAN

Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis

HANDBELLS

O Holy Night & Gesu Bambino arr. D. Linda McKechnie

HYMN: Go Tell It on the Mountain †

GO TELL IT

All:

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 angels 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

**Have You Heard/Glory
to the Newborn King**

Shelton Becton

*Have you heard about the baby, the child of Bethlehem?
Have you heard the blessed story? 'Twas peace, good will
toward men. He came from God the Father to be our dying
Lamb. Have you heard about the child of Bethlehem?
Have you heard about the child of Bethlehem?*

*Jesus, Oh what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so Holy,
meek and mild. What life and hope to all He brings;
listen to the angels sing. Glory, glory, glory to the
newborn King. He was heralded by the angels, born in
a lowly manger. Virgin Mary was chosen as His mother,
and Joseph as His earthly father. The wise men came
from afar. They were guided by a shining star. To see
King Jesus where He laid in a manger filled with hay.
Oh Jesus, Jesus, Oh what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus,
so Holy, meek and mild. What life and hope to all He
brings, listen to the angels sing. Glory, glory, glory to the
newborn King!*

*Jesus, we're just talking about Jesus, of Him there's no
doubt. Mary's baby, in a manger, Full of glory, Oh,
King of Kings, Lord of lords, Prince of peace, Rose of
Sharon, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Emanuel,
Bright Morning Star, born a Savior. Got to shout of His
glory, glory, glory to the newborn King!*

GREETING

Rev. Adriene Thorne

A Christmas Carol

Charles Ives

*Little star of Bethlehem!
Do we see Thee now?*

† We invite all who are willing and able to stand and join in singing.

Do we see Thee shining
O'er the tall trees?
Little Child of Bethlehem!
Do we hear thee in our hearts?
Hear the Angels singing:
Peace on earth, good will to men!
Noel!

O'er the cradle of a King,
Hear the Angels sing:
In Excelsis Gloria, Gloria!
From his Father's home on high,
Lo! for us He came to die;
Hear the Angels sing:
Venite adoremus Dominum.

III. THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

RITUAL OF LIGHT

Riverside Pastoral Staff

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

We invite all who are willing and able to join in singing. Please remain seated.

All:

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.

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

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born.

PRAYER

Rev. Tim Dalton and Rev. Adriene Thorne

HYMN: The First Nowell †

THE FIRST NOWELL

All:

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They look-ed up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE

VIOLA, HARP, AND ORGAN

The Sleep of the Infant Jesus

Henri Büsser

† We invite all who are willing and able to stand and join in singing.



UPCOMING CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Tuesday, December 24 | 4:00 PM | Nave & Online

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Tuesday, December 24 | 7:00 PM | Nave & Online

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 29 | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 31 | 11:00 PM | Nave & Online

EPIPHANY SUNDAY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, January 5 | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

PASTORAL TEAM & MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Adriene Thorne, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Tim Dalton, *Minister for Congregational Care & Older Adults*

Min. Derrick Jordan, *Ministerial Staff*

Rev. Jim Keat, *Minister of Digital Worship and Education*

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner, *Minister of Justice, Advocacy, and Change*

Min. Heelee Joo Velez, *Associate Director of Education & Faith Formation (Children & Families)*

Rev. Dr. Lisa Weaver, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Charlene Wingate, *Ministerial Staff*

Rev. Jabe Ziino, *Associate Director of Education & Faith Formation (Youth & Young Adults)*

If you or someone you know is experiencing a pastoral emergency, please call 212.870.6710 and ask for the clergy on call.

PROGRAM & SUPPORT STAFF

Natalie Fein, *Chief Operating Officer*

Talia Johnson, *Manager of Member Services*

Alan Montgomery, *Interim Director of Music*

Alexandra A. Pimentel, *Director of Social Services & Outreach*

Natalie Graves Tucker, *Director of Communications and Development*