



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

*Candlelight*  
**CAROL FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 · 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.

## GRACE SPACE 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 1:30 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://trcnyc.org/email). Be sure to add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto: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](http://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**

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *Director of Music & Organist*  
Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *Associate Organist*  
Stephen Tharp, *Artist-in-Residence*

## **The Riverside Inspirational Choir**

Nedra Olds Neal, *director*

## **The Riverside Rising Voices**

Matthew Hommez, *director*

## **The Riverside Ringers**

Daniel Potter, *director*

### **Instrumentalists**

Yuliya Basis, *piano*  
Joseph Joubert, *piano*  
Anthony Korf, *percussion*  
Barry Centanni, *percussion*  
Mark Peterson, *bass*  
Riza Printup, *harp*  
Lynnli Wang, *carillon*  
Kristina Giles, *viola*  
Marcus Printup, *trumpet*

### **Soloists**

Lucia Bradford, *mezzo-soprano*

### **Dancers**

Footprints Dance Company

### **ASL Interpreters**

Avery Gordon  
M. Lisa Lockley

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*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.*

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

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## PRELUDE

### CARILLON

What Child is This? (Greensleeves) arr. John Courter

O Tannenbaum arr. Mathieu Daniël Polak

The Shepherds Were Keeping Watch arr. Polak

Silent Night arr. Beverly Buchanan

The First Nowell arr. Buchanan

### HANDBELLS

In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Arnold Sherman

What Child is This arr. Michael Helman

### ORGAN

Berceuse Paraphrase George Baker

Christmas Carol Improvisation Stephen Tharp

## 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 SCRIPTURE LESSON

**Proverbs 8:1, 22-24, 27-31** Rev. Charlene A. Wingate  
(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 LESSON

**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.

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.

### 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.

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

**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**

**CAROL: Child of God  
(The Little Cradle Rocks  
Tonight in Glory)**

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Emily Crocker

*If anybody asks you who I am,  
tell him I'm a child of God.  
Hallelujah, glory, hallelujah!*

*We're gonna rock, Mary, rock the cradle in glory.  
Peace on Earth!*

*The little cradle rocks tonight in glory  
for the little Child of God.  
Hallelujah, glory, hallelu!*

*When I get to heaven gonna watch and tell  
three bright angels, go and ring them bells.  
One for to sing and the others to pray  
and shout hallelujah for the judgment day!*

*We're gonna rock, Mary, rock the cradle in glory.  
Peace on Earth! Good will to all!*

**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**

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**

**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.

**HANDBELLS**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came arr. Joel Raney

**II. THE CAROLS**

**See Amid The Winter's Snow**

John Goss  
arr. David Willcocks

*See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.*

**Refrain:**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim:*

**Refrain**

*Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
What your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?*

**Refrain.**

*'As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing "Peace on earth"  
Told us of the Saviour's birth':*

**Refrain**

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

Sacred infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this:

**Refrain**

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee,  
In thy meek humility:

**Refrain**

**Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day** John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;

**Refrain:**

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance  
Thus was I knit to man's nature  
To call my true love to my dance.

**Refrain**

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance.

**Refrain**

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.

**Refrain**

**Children Go Where I Send Thee** arr. Uzee Brown

Children, go where I send thee.  
How shall I send thee?

I'm gonna send thee one by one,  
because one was a little biddy baby,  
he was born of the Virgin Mary,  
he was born in Bethlehem.

I'm gonna send thee two by two,  
two was Paul and Silas...

I'm gonna send thee three by three,  
three are the Hebrew children...

I'm gonna send thee four by four,  
four are the gospel writers...

I'm gonna send thee five by five,  
five was the five that came back alive...

I'm gonna send thee six by six,  
six are the six that couldn't get fixed...

I'm gonna send thee seven by seven,  
seven for the seven that came down from heaven...

I'm gonna send thee eight by eight,  
eight are the eight that stood at the gate...

I'm gonna send thee nine by nine,  
nine are the nine that dressed so fine...

I'm gonna send thee ten by ten,  
ten are the ten commandments...

I'm gonna send thee eleven by eleven,  
eleven are the eleven came down from heaven...

I'm gonna send thee twelve by twelve,  
twelve are the twelve disciples...

**Noel**

Todd Smith  
arr. Brad Holmes

Noel! Jesus has come to live with us.  
If you want to know the Child, you have to come kneel.  
-Kituba dialect

**TRUMPET AND HARP**

O Holy Night

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

**PIANO**

Do You Hear What I Hear

arr. Joseph Joubert

**HYMN: Hark! The Herald**

MENDELSSOHN

**Angels Sing †**

**All:**

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain:**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

**Refrain**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

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

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

**Refrain**

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.

**Rockin' Jerusalem**

arr. Stacey Gibbs

*Mary, Oh Mary, Martha, Oh,  
Mary, won't you ring-a-dem bells.  
Mary, oh Mary, Martha, oh,  
Mary, won't you ring-a dem bells.  
Don't you hear 'em ring'n, rock-in Jerusalem,  
Oh, Mary, Oh, Mar-tha, ring-a-dem bells, just a ring a dem.*

*I hear archangels a rockin' Jerusalem,  
I hear archangels a ring-a dem bells*

*I'm singin' church gettin' higher, Oh, Lord,  
Yes, Church gettin' higher, I said, a church gettin' higher,  
Oh, Lord, a church gettin' higher, won' you ring a dem bells?  
Yes, Lord, amen.*

*I'm singing new Jerusalem,  
Yes, new Jerusalem, I said a new Jerusalem, Oh Lordy  
new Jerusalem, a ringin', ring a dem bells?  
Rock, rock, rock,  
Rockin' Jerusalem*

*Oh Mary, Oh Martha, ring dem bells.  
Rock, rock, rock, rockin Jerusalem  
a ring a dem bells  
New Jerusalem, ring-a dem bells!*

**GREETING**

Rev. Adriene Thorne

**We Are Christmas**

Kevin Johnson & Sarah Stephens

**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."

**PRAYER**

Rev. Jim Keat & Rev. Adriene Thorne

**RECESSIONAL 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

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

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

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

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 28 | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

### NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

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

### EPIPHANY SUNDAY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, January 4 | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

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### PASTORAL TEAM & MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Adriene Thorne, *Senior Minister*

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

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, *Minister for Intergenerational Christian Education and Formation*

Rev. Derrick Jordan, *Ministerial Staff*

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

Dr. Jillian Langford, *Associate Director of Education & Faith Formation (Children & Families)*

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

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

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *Associate Organist*

Natalie Fein, *Chief Operating Officer*

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *Director of Music*

Talia Johnson, *Manager of Member Services*

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

Natalie Graves Tucker, *Director of Communications and Development*