

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



SERVICE OF HOPE AND CONSOLATION
DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 2:00 PM

Welcome to The Riverside Church

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

Connect With Us

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Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



ASL Interpreters

Sheldon Price and Canara Price

Cover art by Jamil De Honney

Assisted listening devices are available to anyone who needs them. Speak to an usher to secure one for service. They can be returned to any usher at the end of service.

*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.

PRELUDE

Stèle pour un Enfant défunt, Op. 58, no. 3

Louis Vierne

Stephen Tharp, *organist*

WELCOME

Rev. Tim Dalton

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 27:1, 13-14)

standing as able

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom should I be afraid?**

One: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

**All: Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

OPENING PRAYER

remain standing

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMANNUEL

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

LISTENING

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

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

Isaiah 40:1, 25-31 (*Pew Bible p. 667*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*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 you, O Israel.*

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

Psalms 121 (*Pew Bible page 571*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Tim Dalton

Matthew 11:28-30 (*Pew Bible page 12*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, Desire of nations, bind, in one the hearts of humankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

RESPONDING

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

LIGHTING OF CANDLES OF HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE

You are invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of a loved one, in acknowledgment of a loss, or in the hope of the light of Christ

ORGAN
Improvisation

Stephen Tharp

SOLO
Les berceaux

Gabriel Fauré

*Along the quay the great ships, Listing silently with the surge,
Pay no heed to the cradles Rocked by women's hands.
But the day of parting will come, for it is decreed that women shall weep,
And that men with questing spirits Shall seek enticing horizons.
And on that day the great ships, Leaving the dwindling harbour behind,
Shall feel their hulls held back By the soul of the distant cradles.*

Nate Mattingly, *bass baritone*

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

SENDING

We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors.

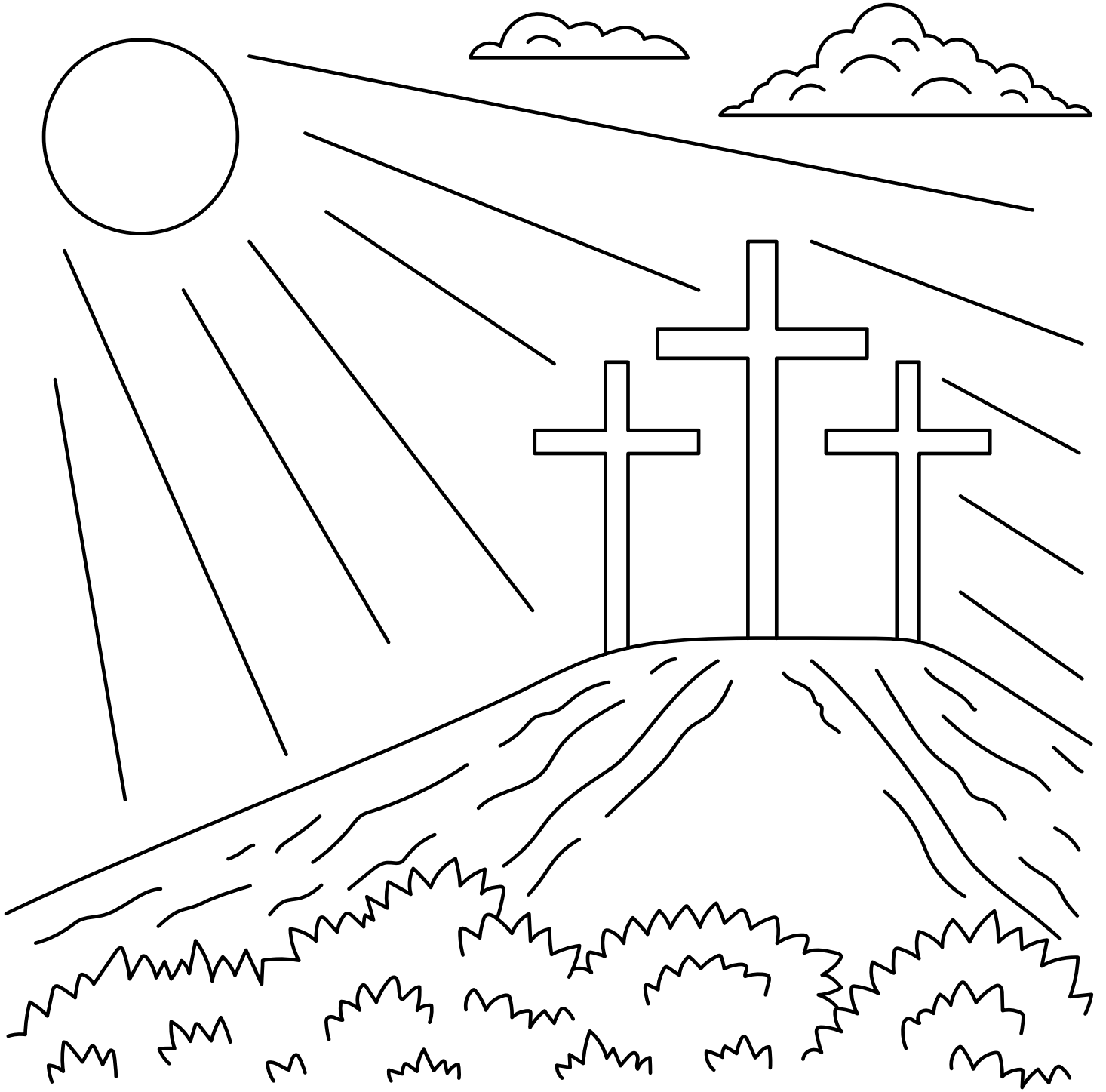
BENEDICTION

Rev. Tim Dalton

MEDITATION
Meditation (1928)

Louis Vierne

Stephen Tharp, *organist*



TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Breakfast <i>(available for purchase)</i>	South Hall	8:30 am
Fresh Start	Online	8:30 am
Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 am
Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	9:30 am
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 am
ParentConnect	321 MLK & Online	10:00 am
Grace Space Nursery	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 am
Fellowship Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	12:30 pm
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	After Worship
Lunch <i>(available for purchase)</i>	South Hall	After Worship
Advanced Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	1:00 pm
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 pm
Service of Hope and Consolation	Christ Chapel	2:00 pm

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 am
Art of Movement	330 MLK	10:00 am
Tower League Bible Study	Online	11:00 am
Multifaith Monday Vigil	Columbus Circle	5:30 pm
Membership & Parish Life Commission Meeting	Online	6:00 pm
North Star Bible Study	Online	6:00 pm
Worship Commission Meeting	Online	6:30 pm
Mission & Social Justice Commission Meeting	Online	7:00 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 am
Nominating Committee Meeting	Online	6:30 pm
Education Commission Meeting	Online	7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 am
Service Program for Older People	By Appointment Only	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 am
Midweek Bible Study (Bible in a Minute)	Online	12:30 pm
Intermediate Beginners Biblical Hebrew	Online	5:30 pm
Space for Grace	9T & Online	7:00 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 am
Art of Movement	330 MLK	10:00 am
Tower League Bible Study	10 T	11:00 am
Tower League Luncheon	Assembly Hall	12:00 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 am
MCD's Nutcracker	Riverside Theatre	7:00 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Advent Reflections:Waiting with Hope, Joy and Peace	Online	8:30 am
Volunteer Candlelight Prep	South Hall Lobby	12:00 pm
Holiday Caroling (With a Twist for justice)	Vicinity of The Riverside Church	1:00 pm
MCD's Nutcracker	Riverside Theatre	2:00 pm

COMING SOON

Business and Profession Women's Christmas Tea	Sunday, December 14	1:00 pm
Candlelight Carol Festival & Dinner	Sunday, December 14	4:00 pm
Party With a Purpose	Friday, December 19	6:00 pm
Riverside Church School Christmas Pageant	Sunday, December 21	11:00 am

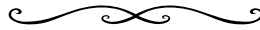


Visit trcnyc.org/LOC or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

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



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 grace space 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 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.

PASTORAL TEAM AND MINISTERIAL STAFF



Rev. Adriene Thorne
Senior Minister



Rev. Tim Dalton
Minister for Congregational
Care and Older Adults



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



Rev. Derrick T. Jordan
Ministerial Staff



Rev. Jim Keat
Minister of Digital Worship
and Education



Min. Jillian Langford
Associate Director of Education
and Faith Formation
(Children and Families)



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



Rev. Charlene A. Wingate
Ministerial Staff



Rev. Jabe Ziino
Associate Director of Education
and Faith Formation
(Youth and 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 AND 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