

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2025 | 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 – Petal St. Rose

Mary – Dr. Jillian Langford

Joseph – Rev. Jabe Ziino

Innkeeper – Jacqueline Gregg

Shepherd – Rev. Tim Dalton

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

## MUSICIANS

Matt King, *piano and melodica*

Tim Horner, *drums*

Belden Bullock, *bass*

**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.*

## PRELUDE

Matt King, *piano and melodica*  
Tim Horner, *drums*  
Belden Bullock, *bass*

## WELCOME

Dr. Jillian Langford, Rev. Jabe Ziino

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Mueller Family  
*Markus, Nardos, and Makaila*

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

*standing as able*

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

Nadia and Lucia Giles

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.**

Now those people live in darkness. But they will see a great light. They live in a place that is very dark. But a light will shine on them. God, you will cause the nation to grow. You will make the people happy. And they will show their happiness to you. It will be like the joy during harvest time. It will be like the joy of people taking what they have won in war. Like the time you defeated Midian, you will take away their heavy load. You will take away the heavy pole from their backs. You will take away the rod the enemy uses to punish your people.

A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.

One: The Word of God for the People of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

### **Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

**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**

## **Angels We Have Heard on High**

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.

## **Joy to the World**

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.

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

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.

## **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

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!"

## **Away in a Manger**

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.

## **Silent Night**

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. Charlene A. Wingate

## OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

### **What Child is This?**

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. Jabe Ziino and Dr. Jillian Langford

# ADVENT CALENDAR (Nativity)



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## CHRISTMAS HONOREES

To honor these loved ones, contributions were made to support  
The Riverside Church's programs and ministries through the  
Imagine the Impossible annual giving campaign.



In loving memory of **Dr. Emily B. Anderson**, beloved wife of Clarence Anderson and mother to daughters Victoria & Vanessa Anderson. - Clarence Anderson

In loving memory of **Albert Anderson, Bertha Anderson, Curtis Butler, & Justine Butler**, parents of Emily & Clarence Anderson. - Clarence Anderson

In loving memory of my beloved parents, **Rev. Henry J. Evans & Mary M. Evans**, who taught me about God and love. - Eleanor Evans

In loving memory of my beloved parents, **Alicia & Alberto Miraz**. - Laura Miraz

In loving memory of my beloved sister-in-law, **Mayra Marte-Miraz**. - Laura Miraz

In loving memory of **Dr. Damaris Lois Yamoah Lang**, rest in heavenly peace, my friend. - Valerie Henning-Piedmonte

In loving memory of my Aunt, **Florence Dreher**, & my mother, **Mamie Thomas**. - Greg Gist

In loving memory of **Elza Sharpe**, a legacy of love. - The Sharpe Family

In loving memory of our Mom, **Marie K. Wilson**. - Peter, Sara, Becky, & Mark

In honor of our beloved parents, **Thomas Edison Brown** and **Camille Grace Brown**. - Eric & Lea Brown

In loving memory of my grandmother, mother, & aunt, **Owokotoenia Ogunbolude, Adepeju Ogunbolude, & Florence Ogunbolude**. - Babatunde Aboyade-Cole

In loving memory of my sister **Ruth Burchall Sanseviro**, who continues to inspire me to be my best self every day. - Lorraine Burchall

In honor of **Monica Lyn**, thank you for being you. - Keith Shepard

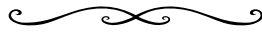
In remembrance of **Joseph Montero**, beloved husband, father, & Papa. Your love continues to be our steadfast anchor as you remain ever present in your absence. - Aida Montero

In loving memory of **Herbert** and **Elsie Moy**. -Gloria Moy

## 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](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.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

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

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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

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### Connect With Us

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more



### What's happening at Riverside?

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



### Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



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## 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



**Dr. 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)

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

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## 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