

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 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:

“Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it.”

-Professor Albus Dumbledore of Harry Potter fame

A question for reflection:

What magical words help you come alive?

Connect With Us

Visit our [Welcome Page](#) to learn more



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



ASL Interpreters

Avery Gordon and M. Lisa Lockley

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.

CARILLON

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Of the Father's Love Begotten
I Know a Rostree Springing

arr. Beverly Buchanan

arr. Beverly Buchanan

arr. Beverly Buchanan

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 559, 660, 661

J.S. Bach

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Jabe Ziino

INTROIT

While We are Waiting, Come

Claire Cloninger

*While we are waiting, come
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.*

*With power and glory, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.*

*Come, Savior quickly, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *standing as able*

Jerry Hairston

One: In city streets or morning light, we gather here in hopeful sight.

All: We light the second flame today, God draws near as we wait and pray.

One: Our waiting is a holy call to act with justice and kindness for all.

All: We prepare the way where Peace may grow, in every heart let mercy flow.

One: In waiting, God is shaping us still, our hands aligned with heaven's will.

All: Let us worship God!

INVOCATION *remain standing*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2 *remain standing, sung by all*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Liturgy adapted from Betsey Beckman's poem, What Can be Done While Waiting.

Stephen and Carol Durham

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah Drake

John 11:25-26 (*Pew Bible page 105*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Ranardo-Domeico Grays

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*Pew Bible page 806*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

HYMN #316

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

SERMON

The Magic in our Mouths

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Charlene A. Wingate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Brandon Waddles

*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 faith and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*I called to my father, My father hearkened to me,
And the last words he said to me were, "Save me, Lord, save me"*

*I called to my father, My father hearkened to me,
And the last words he said to me were, "Save me, Lord, save me"*

*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.*

*Just behold how many dangers the Lord has seen us through.
Come, thou long expected Jesus.*

AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL *standing as able*

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.

**All: 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 *standing as able* Rev. Jim Keat

Today, we celebrate the Riverside Ringers who are dedicated to inspiring and uplifting the community of the Riverside Church through the art of handbell music.

PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

Following each petition, join in the following response:

One: What can be done while waiting?

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the language or version of your heart.

**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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul - er Al - might - y;
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O God.
Bless - ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain.

The image shows a musical score for the Memorial Acclamation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the text.

CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!

*We are grateful for Regina Tate, Irwin Reese, Ranardo-Domeico Grays,
Mary Biggs, Nicholas Singletary, Robbie Patterson, Tedde Tasheff,
Virl Andrick, and Rev. Dr. Andrea White serving as Communion
stewards.*

HYMN #5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

Compassionate God, You have met us in the bread and cup at Your table.

**As we go from this place may we receive strength to walk with all Your children in peace,
and witness to the truth of Your reconciliation and love. Amen.**

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

remain standing, sung by all

TRURO

BENEDICTION

remain standing

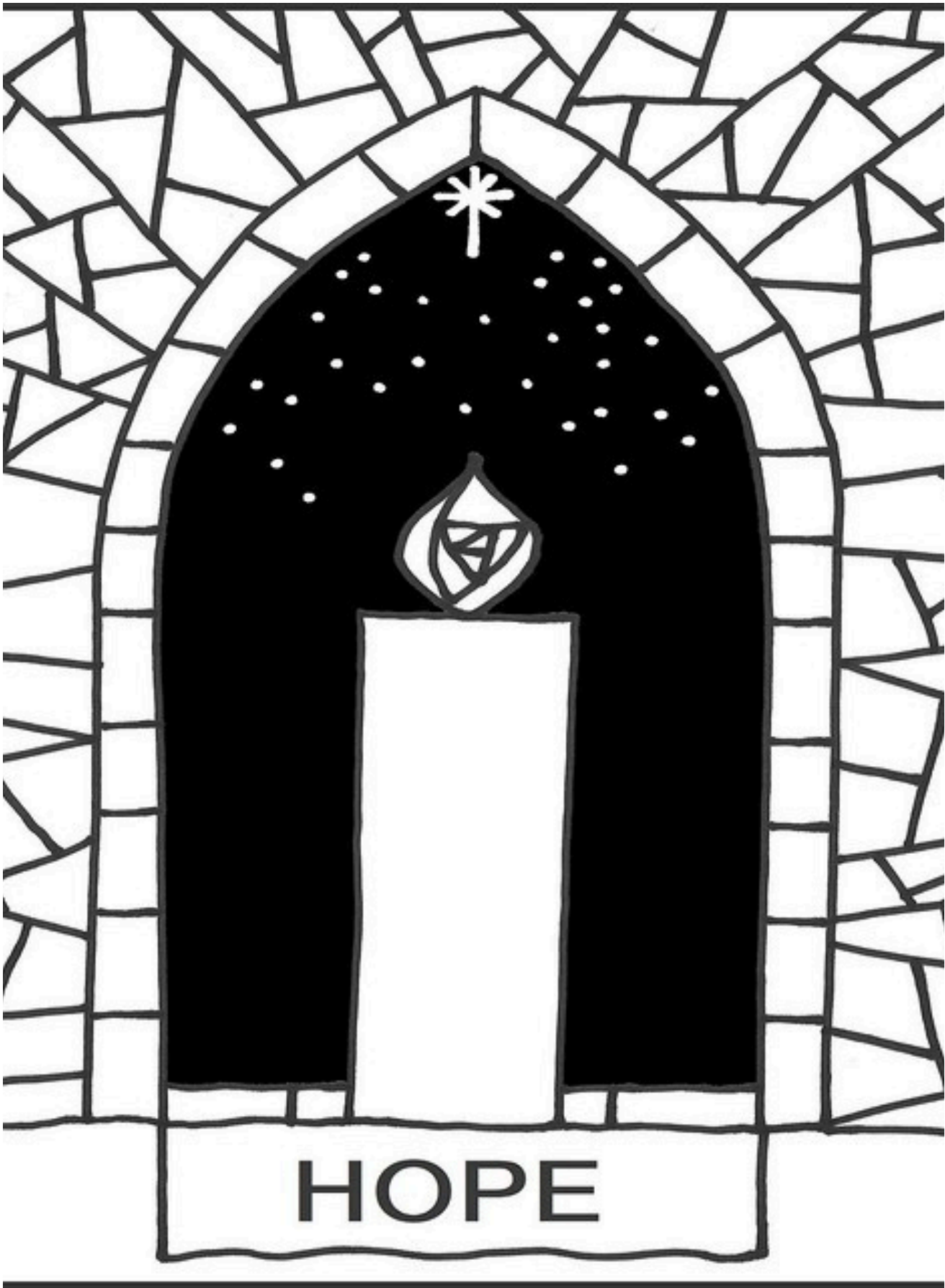
Rev. Adriene Thorne

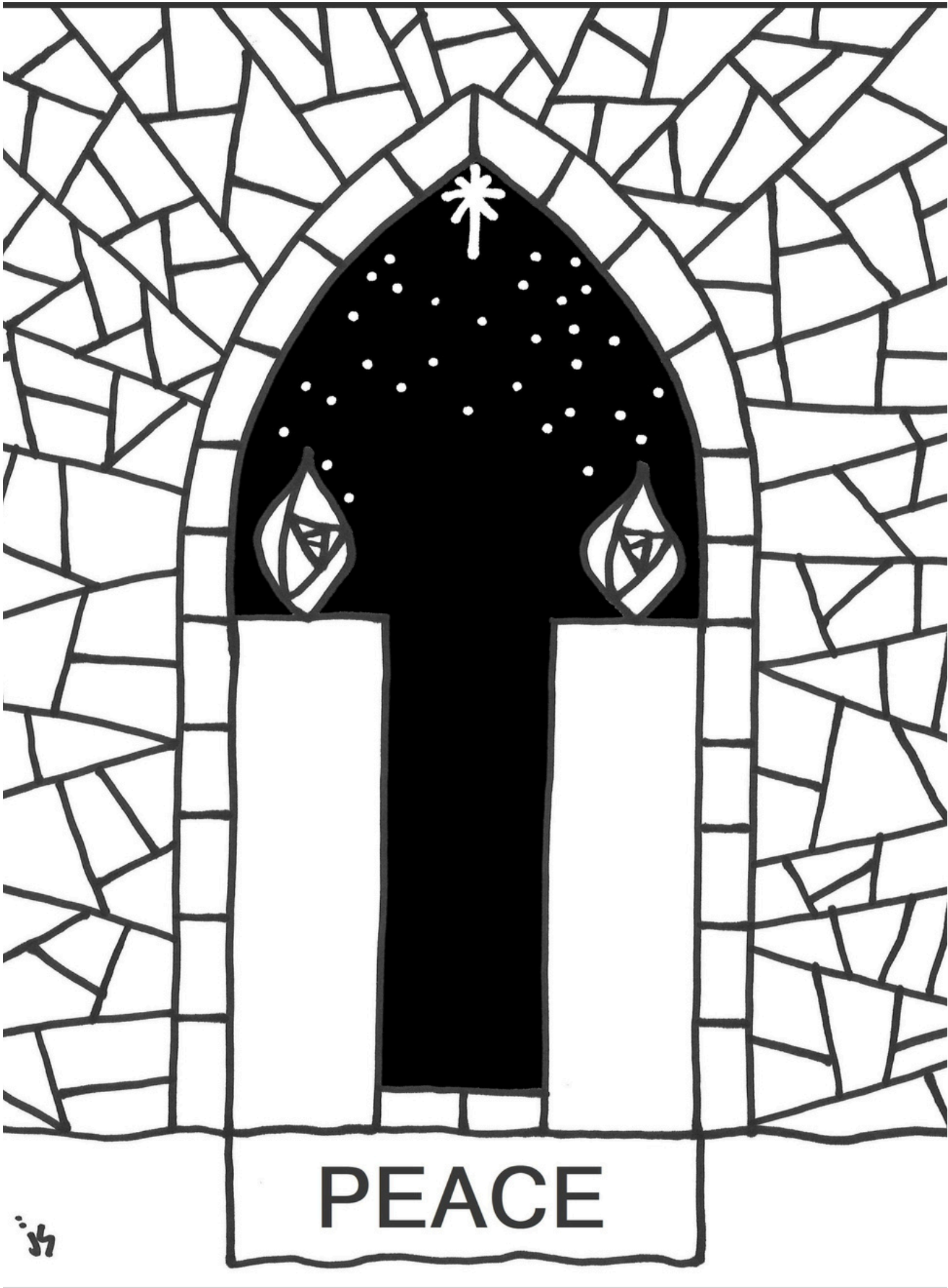
POSTLUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Op. 52: Fugue

Max Reger

Stephen Tharp, *organist*





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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

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

Candlelight Carol Festival & Dinner	Sunday, December 14	4:00 pm
Maranatha Party with a Purpose	Friday, December 19	6:00 pm
Riverside Church School Christmas Pageant	Sunday, December 21	11:00 am

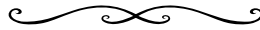


Visit trcnyc.org/LOC or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

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