

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



**EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
JANUARY 4, 2026 | 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:

“It’s so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone.”

—John Steinbeck

## Connect With Us

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



## Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



## ASL Interpreters

Canara Price and Terrona Evans

## 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

Joy! Joy! From Every Steeple  
We Three Kings  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Milford Myhre  
arr. Albert Gerken  
arr. Beverly Buchanan

Carla Staffaroni, *Carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Improvisation

Marc Cheban

Stephen Tharp, *Organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Tim Dalton

## INTROIT

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

African-American Spiritual

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;  
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Follow, follow;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the Star of Bethlehem;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*If you take good heed to the angel's words;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;  
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*standing as able*

Adia Conteh

*One:* Lift your voices, all the earth! Let praise rise wide and free!

**All: We rejoice in the God whose glory is revealed for all to see.**

*One:* Come and behold what God has done, wondrous beyond our words.

**All: We gather in awe of the Holy One, whose power draws the world.**

*One:* The God we know now calls us near, to worship and to proclaim.

**All: With joy and wonder, let us worship and praise God's holy name.**

## INVOCATION

*remain standing*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN #67

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

*remain standing*

MORNING STAR

## LISTENING

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

## HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 66:1-5 (*Pew Bible page 528*)

Patricia Pell

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

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:35-51 (*Pew Bible page 92*)

Barbara Mellor

*One:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Adriene Thorne

**HYMN #69**

*standing as able*

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

**SERMON**

What Are You Looking For?

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**

Dr. Jillian Langford

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth, from *Christus*

Felix Mendelssohn

*There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations. How brightly beams the morning star! What sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing. Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O such love overflowing!*

## **AT THE PRESENTATION**

*standing as able*

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

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

*remain standing*

Rev. Jim Keat

*Today we celebrate the work of our Worship Commission, which partners with our Worship Ministry to curate welcoming and diverse worship experiences for the Church.*

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*remain standing*

*One:* The peace of Christ be with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Riverside Pastoral Staff

*Following each petition, join in the following response:*

*One:* Let us pray as one.

***All:* Let the light of Christ shine on us all.**

## **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!

Based, in part, on the UCC Communion Service for Epiphany Season.  
(<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/communion-service-for-epiphany-season/>)

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

## 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!

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

### HYMN #56

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Dr. Jillian Langford

**All: Compassionate God, You have met us in the bread and cup at Your table. As we go from this place, grant us the strength to let our light shine as we 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 #68**

*standing as able*

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Puer Nobis Nascitur

**BENEDICTION**

*remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

**POSTLUDE**

Festival Toccata on 'St. Anne'

Frederick Swann

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

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<b>Breakfast</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )	South Hall	8:30 AM
<b>Fresh Start</b>	Online	8:30 AM
<b>Absolute Beginners' Biblical Hebrew</b>	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>Open Bible Study</b>	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>ParentConnect</b>	318 MLK & Online	10:00 AM
<b>Grace Space Nursery</b>	See Usher or Security for Location	10:30 AM
<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	South Hall Lobby	After Service
<b>Virtual Coffee Hour</b>	Online	After Service
<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )	South Hall	After Service
<b>Advanced Biblical Hebrew</b>	314 MLK & Online	1:00 PM
<b>Carillon Recital</b>	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	411 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Tower League Bible Study</b>	Online	11:00 AM
<b>Multifaith Monday:</b>		5:30 PM
<b>Witness to Democracy</b>	Columbus Circle	

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Service Program for Older People</b>	By Appointment Only	9:00 AM
<b>Older Adults French Group</b>	321 MLK	10:30 AM
<b>Intermediate Beginners Biblical Hebrew</b>	Online	5:30 PM
<b>Space for Grace</b>	9T & Online	7:00 PM

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Art of Movement</b>	411 MLK	10:00 AM
<b>Tower League Bible Study</b>	10T	11:00 AM
<b>Tower League Luncheon</b>	Assembly Hall	12:00 PM

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
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## COMING SOON

<b>Thunderbirds Dance Workshop</b>	Sunday, January 11	1:00 PM
<b>Bs &amp; Ps Birthday Celebration</b>	Sunday, January 11	1:00 PM
<b>MLK NOW</b>	Sunday, January 18	3:00 PM
<b>Make Our Garden Grow:</b>	Sunday, January 25	2:00 PM
<b>The Riverside Choir Benefit Cabaret</b>		

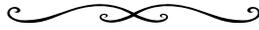


Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](http://trcnyc.org/LOC) or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

## **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](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**

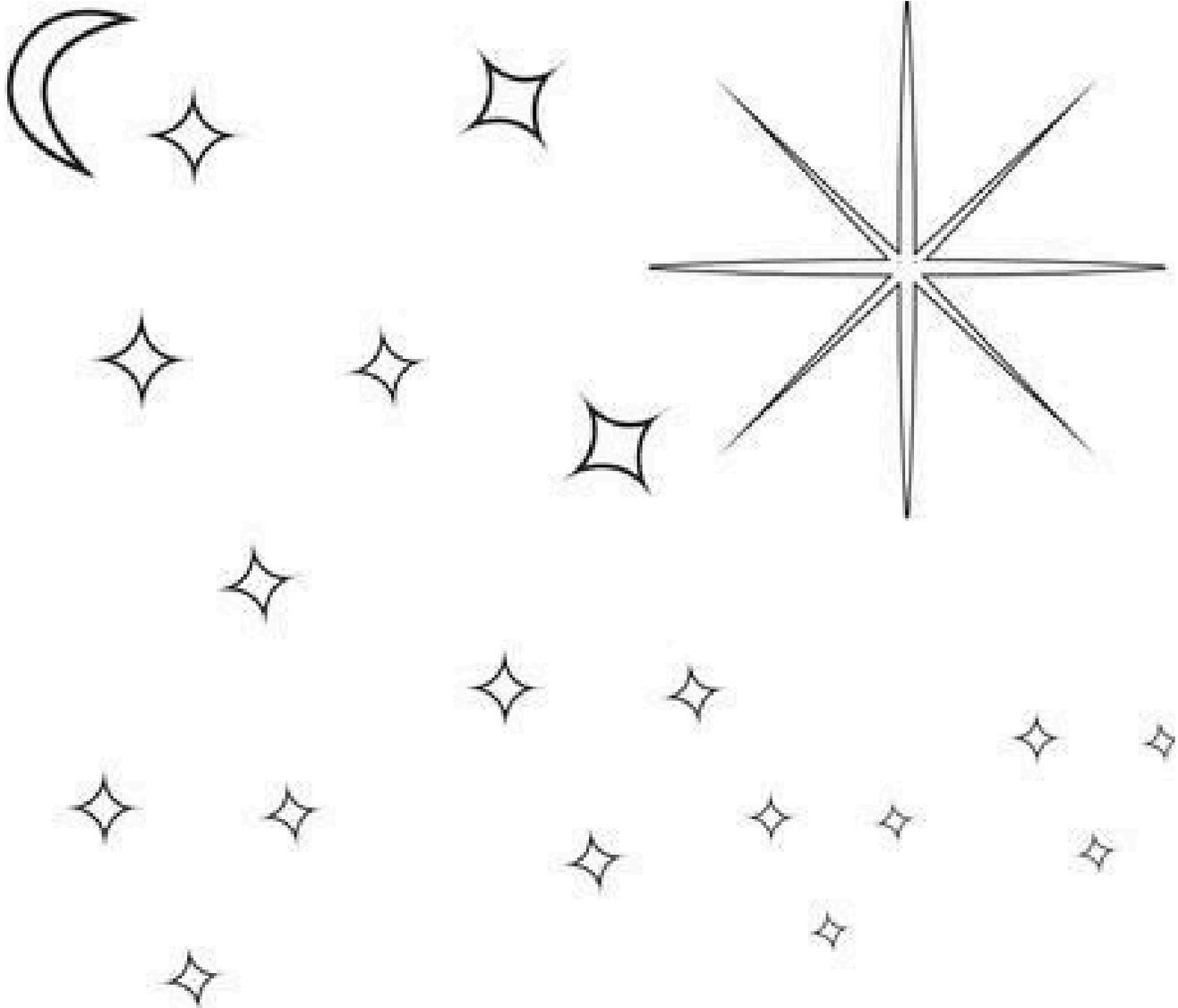
Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to providing support in our social services programs, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Visit [trcnyc.org/volunteer](http://trcnyc.org/volunteer) for more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



**FOLLOW the STAR in the EAST**

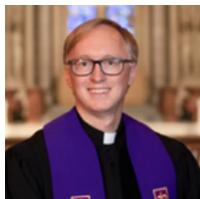
# SERMON NOTES

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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