

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAKING ROOM

FOR JOY

DECEMBER 15, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.

As you prepare yourself for Worship, we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

“Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it will turn out.”

-Vaclav Havel

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is signified by purple paraments and clergy stoles representing the sovereignty of Christ (except for Communion Sundays when the liturgical color is white). Each week we light a candle in the wreath on the Nave floor (mirrored in the hanging wreath above) for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

Complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

A free church tour is offered each Sunday after Worship. Meet in the 1st balcony, no reservation necessary. Tours also take place Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as church schedule permits, leaving from the Welcome Center / Gift Shop. Reservations recommended. Visit trcny.org/visit.

Assistive hearing devices and large print bulletins are available upon request from an usher.



GATHERING

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

CARILLON

Advent Fantasie

John Courter

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Z. Kodaly, arr. G. Bodden

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

STRING ENSEMBLE

Three Traditional Carols

- I. In the Bleak Midwinter
- II. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- III. Carol of the Bells

*The Riverside Youth String Ensemble
Kristina Giles, director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

†CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Bruce Lamb

One: Happy are those whose hope and help are in the LORD our God,
All: Creator of heaven and earth and all that dwell beneath the seas and stars.

One: Our advocate, provider, and warrior for justice for the oppressed,
food for the hungry, and freedom for the imprisoned minds, bodies
and souls of the world.

All: Joy is coming with the coming of the LORD! May God's spirit guide us to make room in our hearts, as we join together in reverence of Christ.

†*All who are able, please stand*

† INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Vazquez-Hili Family

INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Genevan Psalter

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Farley Lord

*Oh God, you call us to patience and diligence
in the painstaking work of your Reign,
But we get discouraged and give up too soon. Lord, Have mercy.
Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community
in the painstaking work of your Reign,
But we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others. Christ, have mercy.
Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence
In the painstaking work of your Reign,
But we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear. Lord, have mercy.
Hear now the confessions of our hearts (silent prayer)
Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community and
joy. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

† HYMN 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

† *All who are able, please stand*

†RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Livingston
& Hillary Puckett

We welcome you with joy and friendship into the common life
of The Riverside Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we
continue to grow together in God's love and grace
and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Kevin VanHook

Isaiah 35:1-10

(pg. 663 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Lee Sartain

Matthew 11:2-11

(pg. 11 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

Making Room For Joy: All Nature Sing

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Bruce Lamb

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

†THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the language or version of your heart.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CHORAL AMEN

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Alan Bentz-Letts & Regina Tate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And the Glory

G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.¹

†AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL

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

**O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Farley Lord

Today we celebrate the work of our entire Music Ministry, which provides beautiful music for all our services, concerts and events, bringing glory to God through music.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 20

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

†*All who are able, please stand*

POSTLUDE

Toccatà on 'Veni Emanuel'

Andrew Carter

*Special thanks to our congregational leaders:
Lee Sartain, Alan Bentz-Letts, & Regina Tate*

FLOWER GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The flowers in the Nave this season are dedicated in memoriam by:

Linda Ewool-Hemans

*In loving memory of our son/brother Waldrine I.S. Ewool Jr. aka Kwame (with
love, Ekua, Twaji, Linda and Wilford)*

Mary Joe Nenadovich

In loving memory of Ruth Hall

Carolyn Britton-Mitchell

In deep appreciation for the life and love of the Britton Family

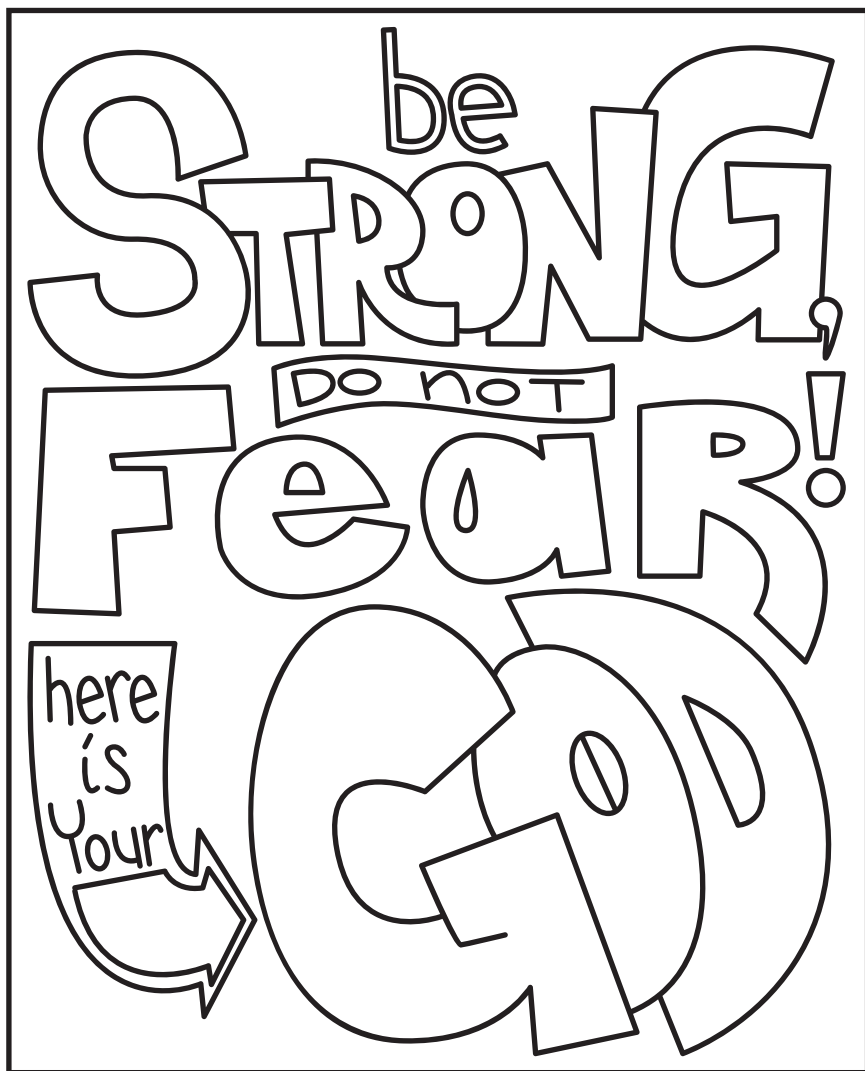
Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Based on Psalm 146

²Worship Ways

³From Messiah

COLOR IN THE WORDS



THEY SHALL

SEE

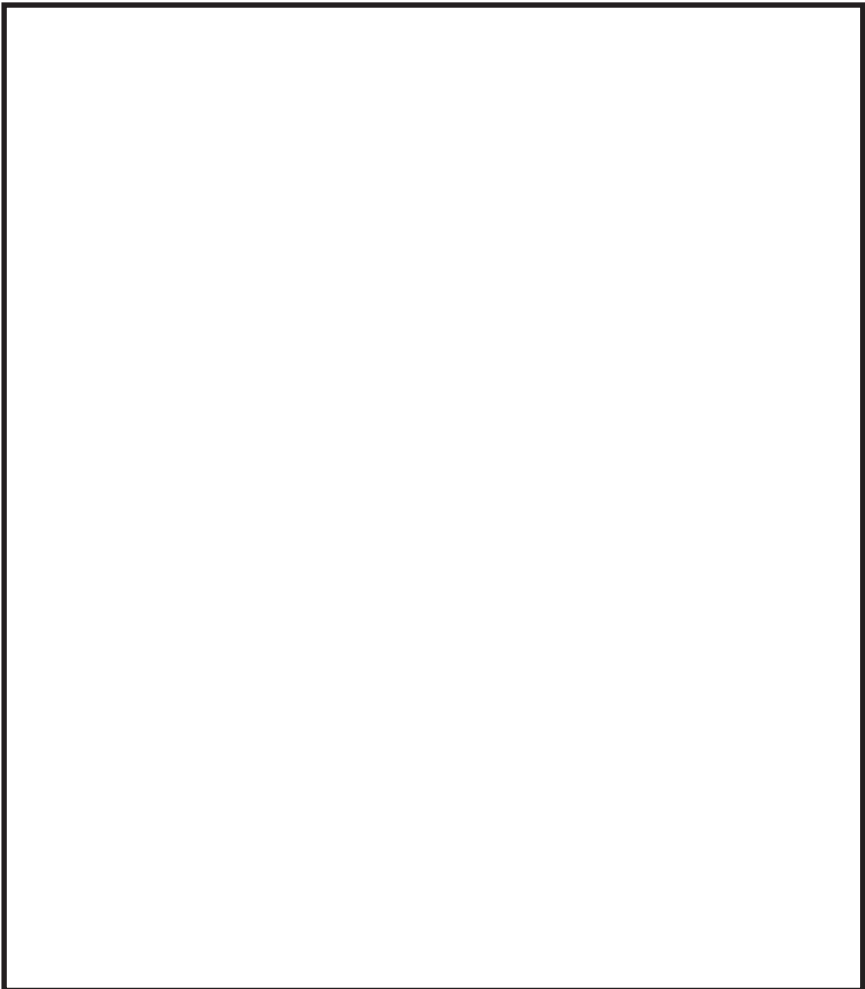
the GLORY of

GOD



DRAW IT

In Matthew 11, people wonder whether Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus says to look at the things he is doing - giving blind people sight, helping those who can't walk be able to walk, healing people who are sick, giving people who can't hear the ability to hear, and more. Draw a picture of Jesus doing one of these. What does it look like to you?



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. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please pick up the Life of the Community newsletter located in the back of the pew or outside the Welcome Center. Visit trcnyc.org/Events for more information and to download a copy.

PARKING - 12/15/2019

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 6:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

CONNECT WITH US.

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CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email communications@trcnyc.org.

For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



trcnyc.org



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