

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 29, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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:

“That which He has not assumed He has not healed.”

-St. Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390 CE)

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 Christmastide where we celebrate the birth of the Christ child we have been waiting for throughout the Advent season. Christmastide is signified by white paraments and clergy stoles. The season concludes with Epiphany Sunday when we celebrate the visit of the Magi.

THE BULLETIN COVER

He Qi (born ca. 1950) is a Chinese-born artist now living in Minnesota. Coming of age during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, he was sent as a teenager to a communal farm to erase the effects of his parent's intellectualism. He Qi's Christian faith was forced underground during this time. To hone his artistic skills, he openly painted portraits of Chairman Mao, while secretly painting images of the Madonna at night. In this work depicting the Christian nativity, He Qi uses vibrant color blocks and geometric shapes to create a compelling composition. Mary and Jesus are shown in glowing pink surrounded by electric blue. The shepherds and their flock surround mother and child, enveloping them in a protective sphere. An angel flies over, observing the miracle birth.

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 trcnyc.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

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss

Nativity Triptych
(Pastorale - Gloria - Cradle Song)

Ronald Barnes

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Berceuse Paraphrase

George Baker

Prelude on 'Once in Royal David's City'

David Willcocks

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

† CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Kevin VanHook

One: The year has thinned, the light seems weaker,
The year is tired, and the season running out.

**All: Yet here we are in the place of life,
for this place believes in things beyond time and season.**

One: We might live in the echo of stables and incarnation.
holding onto faith in the year's last days.

**All: Yet what do we do but perform acts of renewal and rebirth,
of baptism and hope, of seeking new life shaped in Jesus Christ.**

One: So let us gather in what the world sees as the cusp of the year,
yet we know as another day in the eternity of love.

**All: And celebrate who we are, and who we are yet to be.
Come let us be together and worship.**

† INVOCATION

† *All who are able, please stand*

LISTENING

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

SOLO

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night, was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced, and at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night, that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of love and light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell. From paradise to earth He came, that we with Him might dwell.

Matthew Krenz, tenor

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Minister Charlene Wingate

Isaiah 63:7-9

(pg. 693 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Pat Clark

Hebrews 2:10-18

(pg. 219 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

†GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Michael Livingston

Matthew 2:13-23

(pg. 2 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Farley Lord

The Story of My Life

†*All who are able, please stand*

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Livingston

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

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Minister Wingate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Torches

John Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping; Come and sing your song to him! Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby, ah, Roro, my love, Roro; Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, while we sing you our Roro. Sing, my friends, and make you merry, joy and mirth and joy again; Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, now and evermore. Amen.

†*All who are able, please stand*

✚ AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY

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

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. VanHook

Today we celebrate the ministry of the African Fellowship Group, which supports Riverside's mission by focusing on social justice issues that impact our brothers and sisters on the African Continent and throughout the African diaspora.

SENDING

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

✚ RECESSIONAL HYMN 28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

BENEDICTION

Farley Lord

POSTLUDE

Toccata on 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

David Willcocks

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Pat Clark

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹Based on Psalm 146 reWorship.com

✚ *All who are able, please stand*

FLOWER GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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

John. N. Johnson

In memory of Phyllis E. Johnson

June Gray Fletcher

*In loving memory of our mother Rubye T. Gray, grandmothers
Ruby Tilles and Charlie Gray, and great grandmother Ardelia Michelle*

Clarence C. Anderson & Emily B. Anderson

*In memory of our parents Albert Anderson,
Bertha Anderson, Curtis Butler, and Justine Butler.*

Carolyn Britton-Mitchell

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

Mary Joe Nenadovich

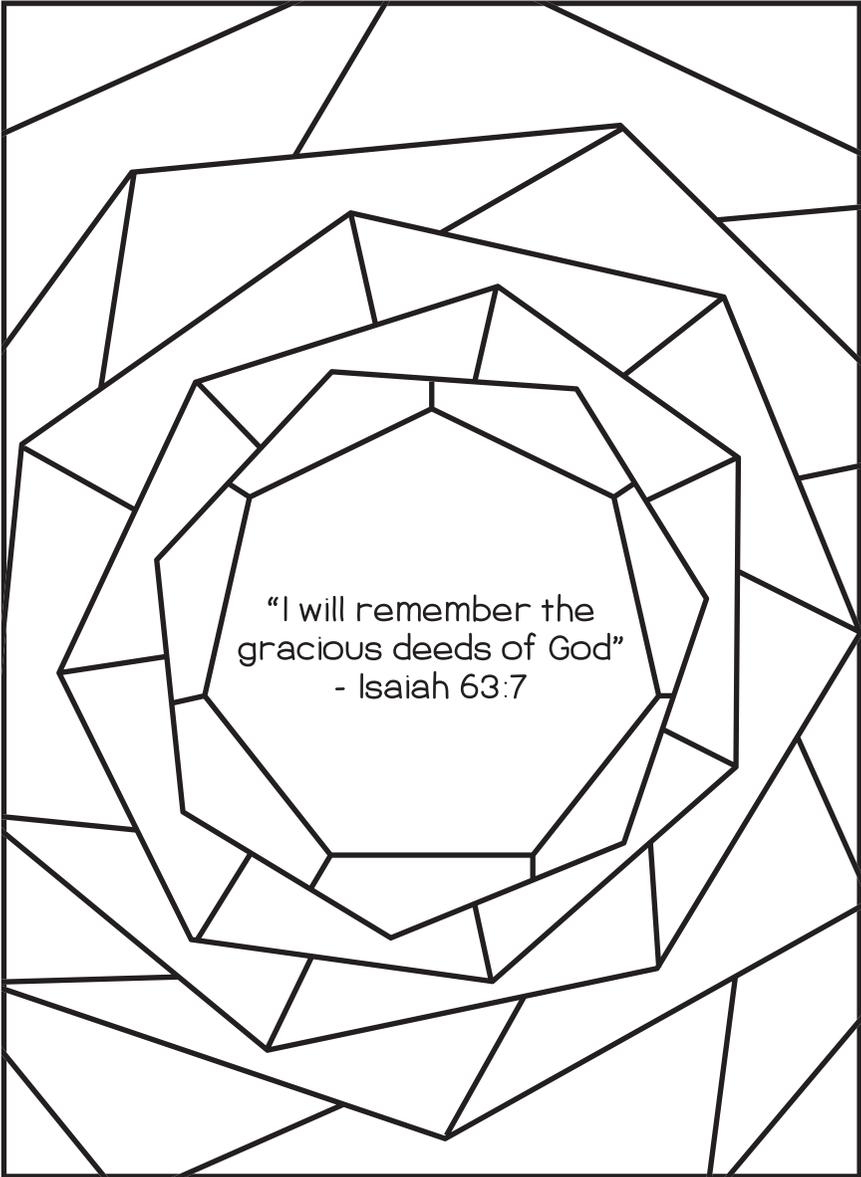
In loving memory of Ruth Hall

Lorraine Burchall

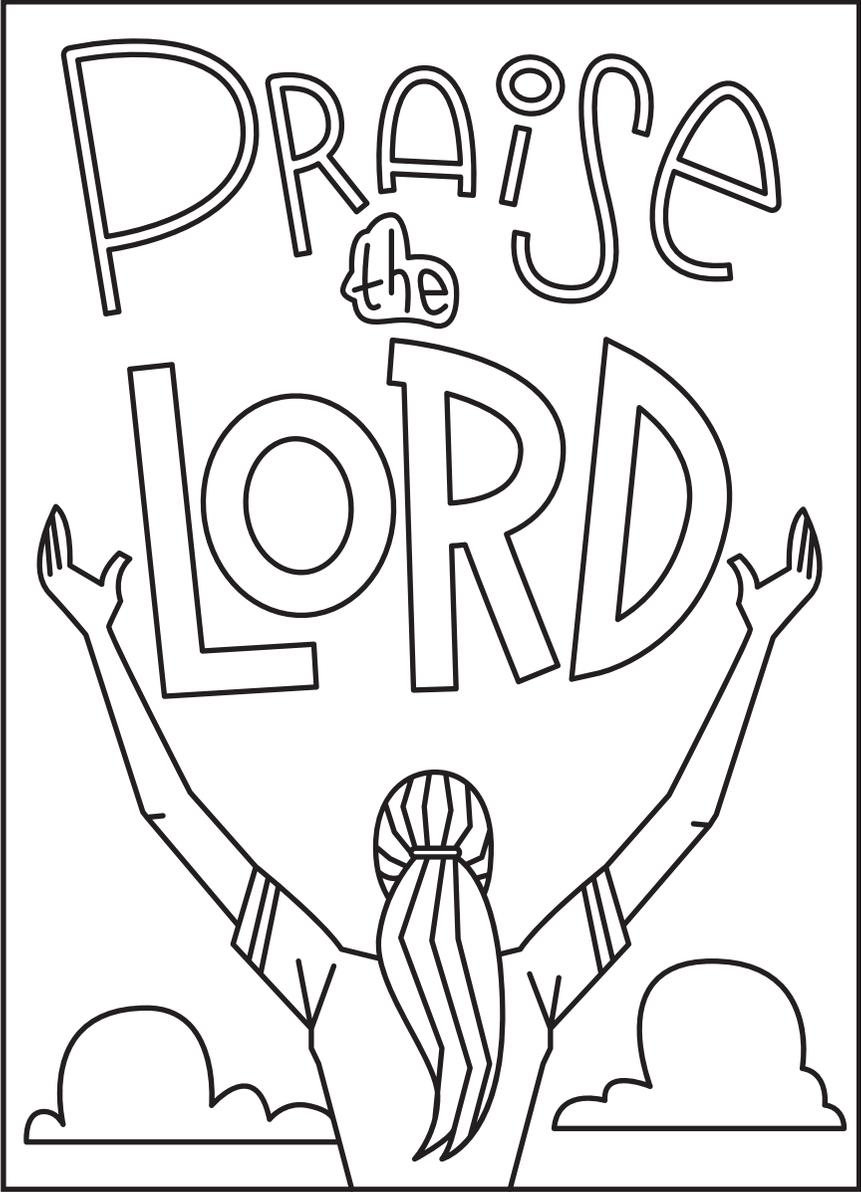
*In memory of my sister, Ruth Burchall-Sanseviro and my Riverside Mentor,
Cathryn Glover.*

Aida Montero

In memory of Hector Rodriguez and Joseph Montero.

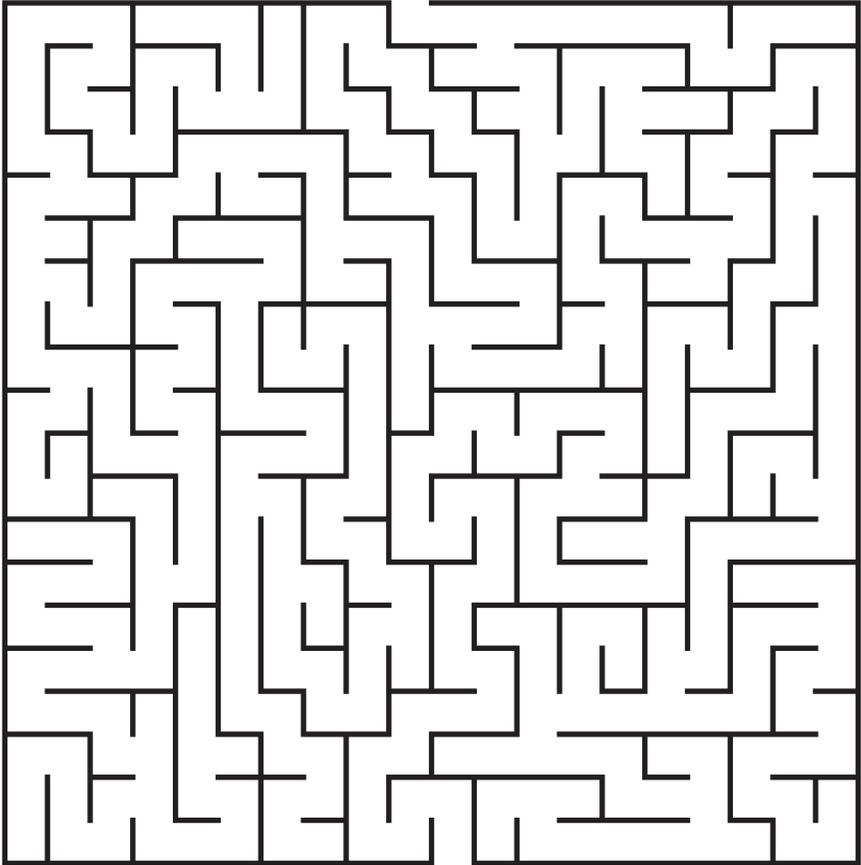


“I will remember the
gracious deeds of God”
- Isaiah 63:7



PRAISE
the

LORD



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

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder, add us to your “safe sender list,” or visit trcnyc.org/Email to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

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.

WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG

If you're out of town or in need of more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship to watch the Sunday morning Livestream, videos of the sermon and the choirs, and more. Be sure to watch The Word Made Fresh, our weekly video Bible Study, and catch up on Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast.

PARKING - 12/29/2019

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.

Rev. Michael Livingston

Interim Senior Minister
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

Pastoral and Program Staff

Christopher Creaghan

Associate Organist
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Minister of Older Adults
lharper@trcnyc.org

Rich Glassey

Executive Director of Operations
rglassey@trcnyc.org

Christopher Johnson

Director of Music and Organist
cjohnson@trcnyc.org

Rev. Jim Keat

Digital Minister
jkeat@trcnyc.org

Rev. Bruce Lamb

Minister of Faith Formation
blamb@trcnyc.org

Farley Lord

Minister of Stewardship & Development
flord@trcnyc.org

Amanda Meisenheimer

Minister of Children & Families
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Rev. Debra Northern

Minister of Parish Care
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

Carrie Quarquesso

Coordinator for Worship & Arts
cquarquesso@trcnyc.org

Rev. Kevin VanHook

Minister of Justice, Advocacy, & Change
kvanhook@trcnyc.org

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



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK