



# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

“What is done out of love always takes place beyond good and evil.”


—Friedrich Nietzsche

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

Bulletin Cover Image: *Jamie Sinclair*

 *@pressuregrafix*

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Advent Hymns

*Leen t'Hart*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Savior of the Nations, Come

*Craig Phillips*

*Christopher Johnson, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Colleen Birchett

One: Creator of hope, God of love. Awaken us so that we may see.

**All: Give us vision to see all that is around us.**

One: Make our ears clean so that we may hear.

**All: Advance our ability to listen so we may hear Your voice.**

One: We sit in anticipation of the coming of Jesus Christ.

**All: With great power and glory Christ will shine light into the darkness.  
In hope of our redemption, let us worship God.**

### OPENING HYMN 17

Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us

*Wachet auf*

**“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us;  
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:**

**“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”**

**Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,  
their urgent summons clearly spoken:**

**“The time has come, O maidens wise!**

**Rise up, and give us light;**

**the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!**

**Your lamps prepare and hasten there,  
that you the wedding feast may share.”**

**Zion hears the nightwatch singing;  
her heart with joyful hope is springing,  
she wakes and hurries through the night.  
Forth he comes, the Bridegroom glorious  
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:  
her star is risen, her light grows bright.**

**Now come, most worthy Lord,  
God’s Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!**

**We follow all and heed your call  
to come into the banquet hall.**

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;  
let saints and angels sing before you,  
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.  
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:  
through them we stream to join th'immortals  
as we with joy your throne surround.  
No eye has known the sight,  
no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!  
Therefore we sing to greet our King;  
forever let our praises ring.

## INVOCATION

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Emi Hare-Yim

Peter Hare

Mark Yim

## INTROIT

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee      *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*

*Lisa Daehlin, soprano*

*Kimberly Walton, mezzo-soprano*

*Johnny Lee Green, tenor*

*Jeremy Leung, baritone*

## LISTENING

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

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 38:6-26

*(page 35 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

## SERMON

Beyond Good and Evil

Rev. Dr. Stephen Phelps

## RESPONDING

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

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Michael 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.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Chiara Fuller

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps

*Spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children,  
don't get weary 'til your work is done. Christian journey soon be over, the  
time is drawing nigh.

### VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, thou Wisdom from on high;

And order all things far and nigh;

To us the path of knowledge show;

And help us in that way to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Dr. Birchett

*Today we celebrate the ministry of the Sharing & Densford Funds, which offer grants to ministries around the world, so that all people may know safety, have access to education, clean drinking water, and live each day knowing their worth in God's beloved community.*

**CLOSING HYMN 6**

**Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending**

*Helmsley*

**Jesus comes with clouds descending;  
See the Lamb for sinners slain!  
Thousand, thousand saints attending  
Join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign!  
Every eye shall then behold You  
Robed in awesome majesty;  
Those who jeered and mocked and sold You,  
Pierced and nailed You to the tree,  
Shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,  
Shamed and grieving, Shall their true Messiah see.  
Yes, Amen! Let all adore You  
High on your eternal throne;  
Crowns and empires fall before You,  
Claim the kingdom for Your own:  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus, Everlasting Christ, come down!**

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

**Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us**

*Johann Gottfried Walther*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Dr. Colleen Birchett & Chiara Fuller*



**Rev. Stephen H. Phelps**, ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), served as Interim Senior Minister of The Riverside Church in New York City, 2011- 2014. He speaks and writes on themes of social justice and the development of consciousness with a particular focus on ending mass incarceration. He and his wife Dr. Beth Mount live in New York City.

## **Featured on the cover left to right:**

*Sophia, Divine Wisdom* by artist Mary Plaster “I depicted Lady Wisdom seated in the context of the entire Cosmos, beckoning us to inclusive and sustainable decision making that gently cooperates with the global community.”

**Nadia Bolz-Weber** Author and founding pastor of *House for All Sinners and Saints*, known for its ministry to those with drug addiction, depression, and those of other faiths.

**Michelle Obama** American attorney and author and the African-American First Lady of the United States, married to the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama.

**Maya Angelou** American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, best known for her series of autobiographies on her childhood experiences, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

**Toni Morrison** American novelist and essayist, and the first black female editor at Random House in New York City. Best celebrated for her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Beloved*.

**Greta Thunberg** Swedish environmental activist who has gained international recognition for promoting the view that humanity is facing an existential crisis arising from climate change.

**Marilynne Robinson** Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, on issues of religion and science, US history, nuclear pollution, John Calvin, and contemporary American politics.

**Elinor Fosdick Downs** American pediatrician and medical officer in the maternal and child health sector of the WHO, and daughter of Riverside's Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

**Sharice Davids** American attorney, former mixed martial artist, and politician serving as the U.S. Representative from Kansas, and the first openly LGBT Native American elected to the U.S.



## **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\*\*](http://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 visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/Events\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/Events) for more information and to download a copy.

## **WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG**

If you need more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/online\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/online) 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.

## CONNECT WITH US.

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### **Rev. Michael Livingston**

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### **Pastoral and Program Staff**

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### **CONTACT US:**

To contact the church with general questions, call 212-870-6700 or email [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*



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