

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOPE

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:

“I will light candles this Christmas, Candles of joy, despite all sadness, Candles of hope where despair keeps watch. Candles of courage where fear is ever present, Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens. Candles of love to inspire all my living, Candles that will burn all the year long.”

-Howard Thurman

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 for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

Whats happening at Riverside?

Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below.



Give by your phone

Make an offering using your smartphone by opening your camera and scanning the code below.

Or text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035.



Following industry standard, Riverside has secured rapid onsite COVID testing services for the health and safety of performers singing together, allowing us to permit unmasked singing. All performers will remain masked at all other times, but will unmask for anthems and singing in the chancel.

GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Seven settings of 'Now Come Our Savior'

*Samuel Scheidt, Dieterich Buxtehude, George Kauffmann, Don Cook,
Johann Sebastian Bach (2), Sally Warner*

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

HANDBELLS

Savior of the Nations Come
Deep River

*arr. Cathy Mokebust
arr. Hart Morris*

*Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: There is a container of hope that never empties.

All: A hope built on the promises of God.

One: From the edges of uncertainty let us embrace this hope.

All: Let Jesus Christ be our guide.

One: Christ is coming with great power and glory,
to shine light in the darkness and to redeem God's people.

All: In hope of our redemption, let us worship God.

✚INVOCATION

✚OPENING HYMN 13

Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

Prepare the Way

Bereden Väg För Herran

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Kristina, Gabriel, Nadia, Lucia, & Thalia Giles

INTROIT

Veni Emmanuel

LISTENING

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

✚PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Phil Tom

In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.

✚WORDS OF ASSURANCE

✚*All who are able, please stand*

ANTHEM

Lo, In the Time Appointed

Healey Willan

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come, the mountains and hills will break forth in singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord shall come into the everlasting kingdom and on the throne of David shall reign forever. Alleluia.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Livingston

Jeremiah 33:14-16

(page 738 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 1

Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

GOSPEL LESSON

Brad Jones

Luke 21:25-36

(pages 85 & 86 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern

At the Edge of Hope

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 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. Amen.

†*All who are able, please stand*

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

Min. Richard X III

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Lord, What a Morning (premiere) *Spiritual, arr. Nancy Wertsch*

My Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the Christian shout. You'll hear the sinner mourn.

Nancy Wertsch, conductor

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION: VENI EMMANUEL

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God. Please meditate silently and refrain from singing.

**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

Min. Wingate

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Social Services programs, which is continuing to offer comprehensive services for those in economic and social crisis by providing food, clothing, and many other resources year-round, and throughout this global event.

✦ CLOSING HYMN 8

Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!
Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

SENDING

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

✦ *All who are able, please stand*

✚BENEDICTION

Rev. Northern

POSTLUDE

Fugue on “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”

Max Gulbins

Christopher Creaghan, organist

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Brad Jones

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 visit trcnyc.org/Events for more information and to download a copy.

JOIN OUR WEEKLY SERMON TALKBACK

Go deeper with the sermons from The Riverside Church every Sunday after worship for a sermon talkback as part of Virtual Coffee Hour. Visit trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour to join us online or go to 311 MLK to join us in person. If you are unable to join the live conversation you can listen to After the Amen, our weekly sermon talkback podcast, as Riverside clergy and congregants talk with Sunday's preacher about how their sermon resonates in our lives and in our world. Visit trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen to listen now.

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add communications@trcnyc.org 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!

DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit trcnyc.org/app to download the app and stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS

Fall and Winter 2021 Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 p.m. and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals for the complete schedule.

PARKING - 11/28/2021

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



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