

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
JOY

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:

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’”

- Matthew 2:1-2

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

Five Hispanic Advent Songs
Four Advent Hymns

*arr. Carol Anne Taylor
arr. Leen 't Hart*

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Veni, Emmanuel
Prélude Solennel (Veni Emmanuel)
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)

*Flor Peeters
Richard Purvis
Johann Sebastian Bach*

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Latoya Wilkinson

One: This is the day to celebrate the blessing of children.

All: We thank God for all children and their voices in our lives.

One: Together, may we find protection and safety in Christ's church.

All: For we are all children in the eyes of the Most High.

One: Christ is coming! Let us prepare our hearts with joy.

All: With the joy of Jesus Christ let us worship as God's beloved children.

†INVOCATION

†HYMN 10

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Alexa Donaphin, Bethany Donaphin, & Michael Barnes

INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort You My People

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Chloe Landers

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

†*All who are able, please stand*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: We worship a God who is not distant or apathetic, but a God who is with us—a God who loves us. Let us keep our eyes open and look for God's daily presence and conform our ways to God's teachings of compassion and grace.

All: Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts fueled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ who came into the world that we would be forgiven. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 30

(page 505 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Harrison Gan

†HYMN¹

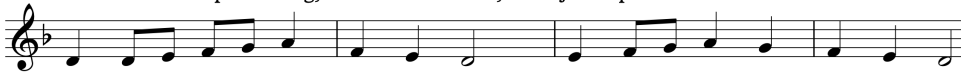
Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Aberystwyth



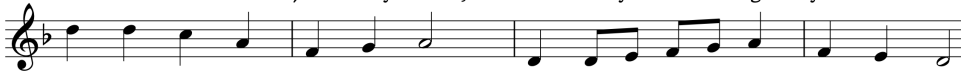
1. Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech - oes through the des - ert still
2. "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love
3. With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near



call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will
Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove
and his time - less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear



"Turn from sin and be bap - tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul
Soon the Lord will come in power, burn - ing clean the thresh - ing floor
So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod



Quit - ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol
then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store
till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

(page 2 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Mara Landers

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Who Will Show Us the Way?

from Young Children and Worship by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer, Script Adaptation and Stage Direction

Matthew Hommez, Director, The Riverside Rising Voices Choir

Yuliya Basis, Pianist

†*All who are able, please stand*

†HYMN

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

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

1. Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear.
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with oil;
 3. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 Look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 A - rise, Thou sun so longed for, a - bove this sha - dowed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon He will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide op - en stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion, at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with Thee!

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.

CHORAL AMEN

†*All who are able, please stand*

✚PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Min. Charlene Wingate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sin. Who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord almighty God who was and is, and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

✚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

Cuba McLean

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Riverside Kids Worship, which provides a sacred space for children to connect with God in song, movement, art, and storytelling.

✚CLOSING HYMN 12

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

People, Look East

Besançon

SENDING

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

✚BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Prepare the way, O Zion

Paul Manz

Special thanks to our congregational leader: Santiago Soto, Latoya Wilkinson, Chloe Landers, Mara Landers, Harrison Gan, & Cuba McLean.

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹ Words: © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted and podcast under OneLicense.net #A-717132

**HONOR A LOVED ONE & SUPPORT
THE FLOWER MINISTRY'S CHRISTMAS DECOR**

This Advent and Christmas season, honor a loved one in your life by lifting up their name in Riverside's Sunday bulletin while supporting Riverside's Flower Ministry for a gift of only \$60. To ensure their name appear in the bulletin on December 19 and 26, the deadline to give is Wednesday, December 15. To give in honor or memory of a loved one, visit: <https://www.trcnyc.org/ChristmasFlowers>

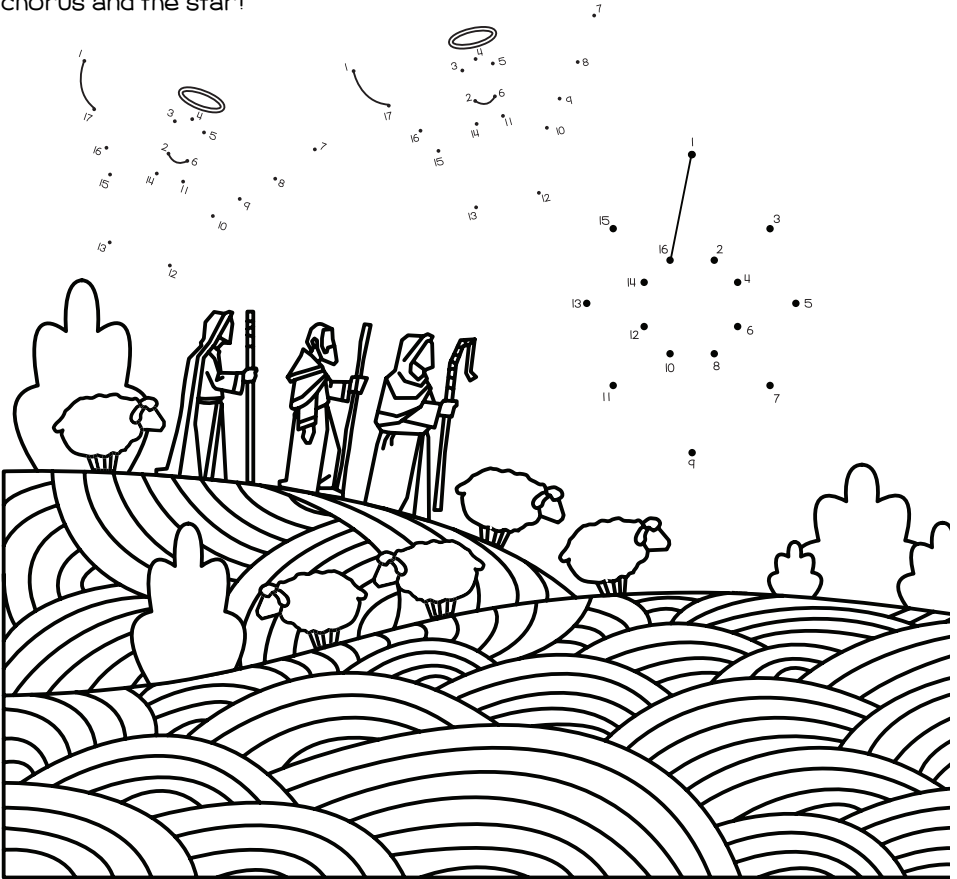


illustrated
— MINISTRY —



CONNECT the DOTS

Scripture tells us the angels and a beautiful star led the way for people to find Jesus after he was born. Connect the dots to form the angel chorus and the star!



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 - 12/12/2021

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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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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