

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 19, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
LOVE

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:

And so, the very young Mary seeks out her older cousin Elizabeth, who is in her sixth month, for a safe space, comfort, wisdom, and support at a time when many are against her. We understand that Mary needs Elizabeth—but Elizabeth also needs Mary. Elizabeth is closer to the age of many in our pews. Elizabeth's generation is aging, and their church is not birthing the new children they hoped for. According to the numbers, their church is barren. But this story sees things differently. Mary and Elizabeth carry the future together: "According to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham [and Sarah] and to [their] descendants forever." In God's mercy, one generation needs the other.

-Rev. Heidi Neumark, Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan

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

Advent Fantasie

Adventi

Nun Komm Der Heiden

John Courter

Zoltan Kodaly, arr. Gideon Bodden

arr. Klaas de Haan

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Two settings of 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming'

Paul Blumenthal

Johannes Brahms

Christopher Creaghan, organ

STRING ENSEMBLE

Three Traditional Carols

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

What Child is This

The Riverside Youth String Ensemble

Athena Wilkinson, guest director

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

✠CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

One: We have come to do the will of God!

All: To rejoice in the One who saves us.

One: With our faith we have prepared a body for Christ.

All: Taking no pleasure in sacrifices and offerings.

One: By God's will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

All: Let us worship together with the blessing of God's love.

✠INVOCATION

✠*All who are able, please stand*

†HYMN

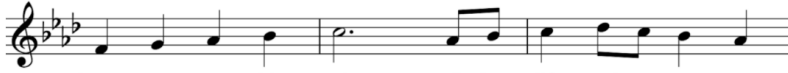
Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God (Song of Mary)²

Morning Song



1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God: my
2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
3. From age to age to all who fear, such
4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out it's praise. God lift - ed up my
ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice -
motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - ny mar - vel - ous ways.
clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dr. Emily Anderson, Clarence Anderson, Victoria Anderson,
& Vanessa Anderson

INTROIT

Creator of the Stars of Night

LISTENING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Min. Derrick Jordan

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius, arr. Roger Wagner

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming of Jesse's root has grown. A rose, by prophet's singing, to all the world made known. The rose, 'midst winter's cold, a lonely blossom bearing, in former days, foretold. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to man a Saviour when half spent was the night. It came, a flow'ret bright amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

†*All who are able, please stand*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Livingston
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper, & 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

Min. Jordan

Micah 5:2-5a

(page 865 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

✚HYMN 16

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

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Gabriel's Message

GOSPEL LESSON

Hylida Clarke

Luke 1:39-45

(page 57 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Livingston

Love at the Edge: Elizabeth & Mary

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Harper

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

Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And the Glory

George Frederick 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. (from Messiah)

†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. Jordan

Today we celebrate the work of our Membership Ministry, which is dedicated to accompanying our church members and prospective members on their spiritual journeys.

†CLOSING HYMN

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Ellacombe



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong;
3. He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4. To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
To help the poor and need - y, And bid the weak be strong;
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth:
His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end:



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free;
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
Be - fore Him, on the moun - tains, Shall peace, the her - ald, go,
The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move,



To take a - way trans - gres - sion, And rule in eq - ui - ty.
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Are pre - cious in His sight,
And right - eous - ness in foun - tains, From hill to val - ley flow.
His name shall stand for - ev - er; That Name to us is Love.

SENDING

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

✚BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Toccata on 'Puer natus in Bethlehem'

Rebecca Groom te Velde

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Hylde Clarke & Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹ Words: © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters. Reprinted and podcast under OneLicense.net #A-717132

² Words: © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters. Reprinted and podcast under OneLicense.net #A-717132

CHRISTMAS & ADVENT HONOREES

Contributions made to support Riverside's Flower Ministry and to honor these loved ones in all our lives.

Clarence C Anderson and Emily B Anderson - In memory of their parents Albert Anderson, Bertha Anderson and Curtis Butler and Justine Butler.

Samuel & Olga Barnes - In memory of my beloved parents and with thanksgiving to God for the incomparable gift of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lorraine Burchall - In loving memory of my sister, Ruth Burchall-Sanseviro, who inspired me everyday.

Ruth Burchall-Sanseviro

Patricia Clark - In celebration of my mother, Rosalie Clark and aunts, Margaret, Delethia, Ruth, Louise, & Kathryn

Evelyn Davis - In loving memory of my brother, William Ashley Davis

Edward DuBose

Yvonne Garvin - In the face of so much bodily trauma, YOU have stayed Strong

Patricia Grant

John & Susie Maniece - In honor of my parents

Aida Montero - In remembrance of Joseph Montero, beloved husband, father and Papa - your love continues to be our anchor as you remain ever present in your absence

Joanne Toran - In Honor of the McLaughlin Family

Willard & Janice Nichols & Holleny - In memory of Carolyn Leary and David Thomas

Sharon, Matthew, and Yuliya Pritchard, Hommez, and Basis - With gratitude and love for the Children's and Youth Music Ministry from the Westbrook Gan Family

Barbara Waterbury

Fannye and Frederick Wilson - My Parents gave us the best moral and educational foundations! We LOVE and Thank them both!!

Michael Winger - In memory of Jane Curtis and David Curtis Winger

In honor of the Childrens', Youth, and Families Ministers - Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer, Rev. Bruce Lamb, and Minister Richard X III - from the Westbrook Gan Family



UNSCRAMBLE IT

How does the Gospel of Luke describe Jesus' birth? Unscramble the words to find out.

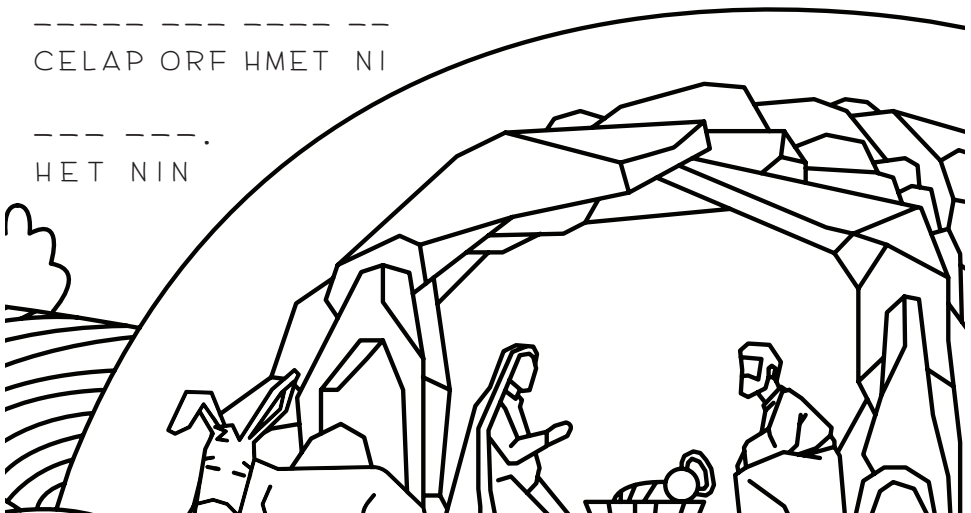
DNA RMYA VEAG TIHRB OT EHR BIFORSTNR ONS

-----, -----
DAN PAWREPD IMH NI SNDAB FO OTCLH NAD IADL

-----, -----
MIH NI A RAMNEG CABUSEE HERTE SWA ON

CELAP ORF HMET NI

-----.
HET NIN



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 - 12/19/2021

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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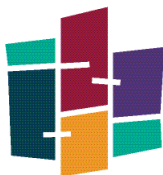
Director Of Communications & Strategy

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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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