

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DECEMBER 26, 2021  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

# 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:

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations,

to bring peace among the people,

to make music in the heart.”

-The poem “The Work of Christmas” is from Howard Thurman’s *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*

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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 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.

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### 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.

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Selections from the Messiah *George Frederick Handel, arr. Carlo van Ulft*  
*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Noël No. VIII Étranger, sur les jeux d'anches *Louis-Claude Daquin*  
Berceuse Paraphrase *George Baker*  
*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jim Keat

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens and all the heights!

**All: From all the angels and earthly hosts, the sun, moon and stars!**

One: We come to adore the Light of the World.

**All: With loving peace let us gaze upon our Lord.**

One: May the grace of the Holy One fill our hearts.

**All: Let us worship in Christ's Holy name.**

### INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN 49

**Once in Royal David's City**

Irby

### LISTENING

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Harper

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

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## 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.

*Jessica Marsten, soprano*

## EPISTLE LESSON

Rev. Keat

Colossians 3:12-17

*(pg. 201 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 51

**See Amid the Winter's Snow**

*Humility*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Julian Wharton

Luke 2:1-20

*(pgs. 58 & 59 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Bruce Lamb

**The Work Of Christmas**

### *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.**

## 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

Rev. Keat

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

See Amid the Winter's Snow

*John Goss*

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;  
He, who throned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing peace on earth told us of the Saviour's birth".

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility!

## THE DOXOLOGY

**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. Keat

*Today we celebrate the work of the Deaf Ministry, which partners with members of the Deaf Community to embrace their Culture, create and maintain a ministry that includes Deaf, hard of hearing persons, and their families in all aspects of the life of the Church and uses American Sign Language to ensure that all God's children, Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing, are included in the heavenly banquet.*

## CLOSING HYMN 28

**Good Christian Friends Rejoice**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

### SENDING

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

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Lamb

## POSTLUDE

Quand Jésus naquite à Noël

*Claude Balbastre*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leader: Julian Wharton*

## 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

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

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

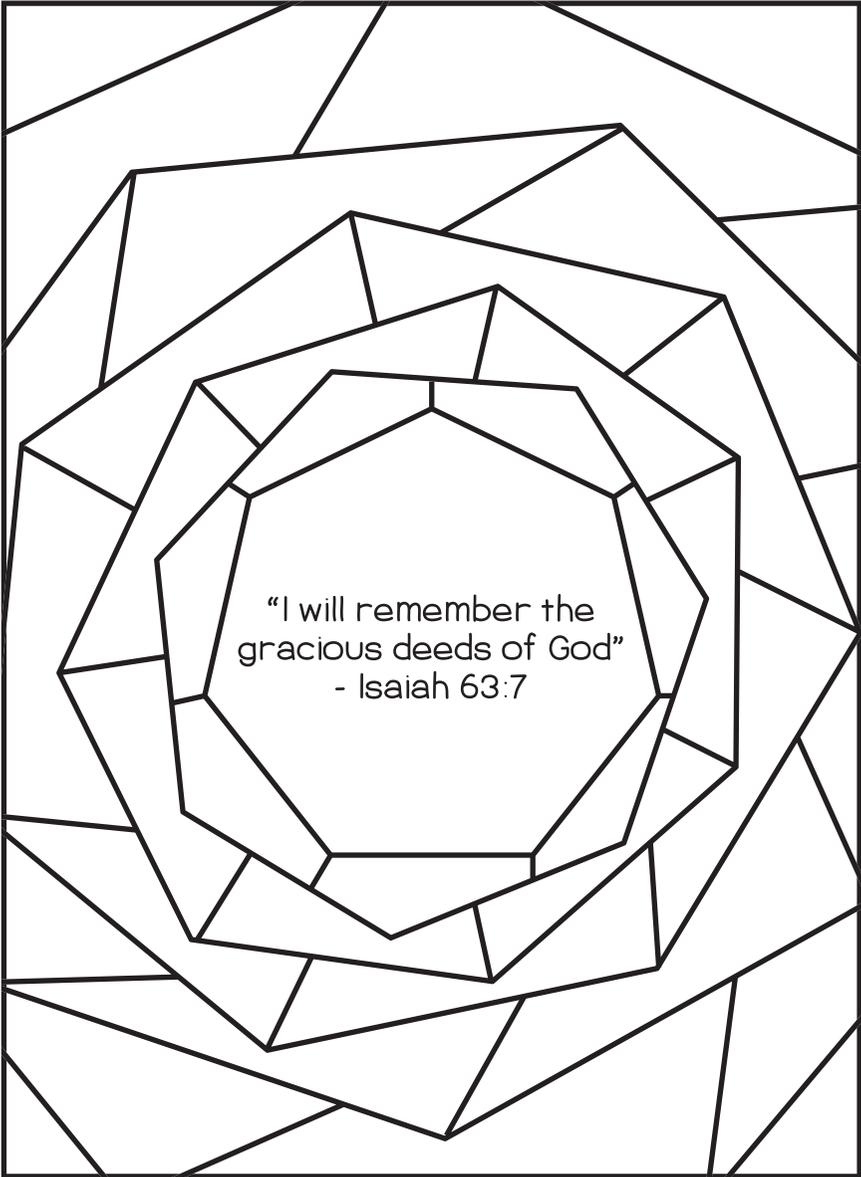
Sharon, Matthew, and Yuliya Pritchard, Hommez, and Basis - With gratitude and love for the Children's and Youth Music Ministry from the Westbrook Gan Family

Barbara Waterbury

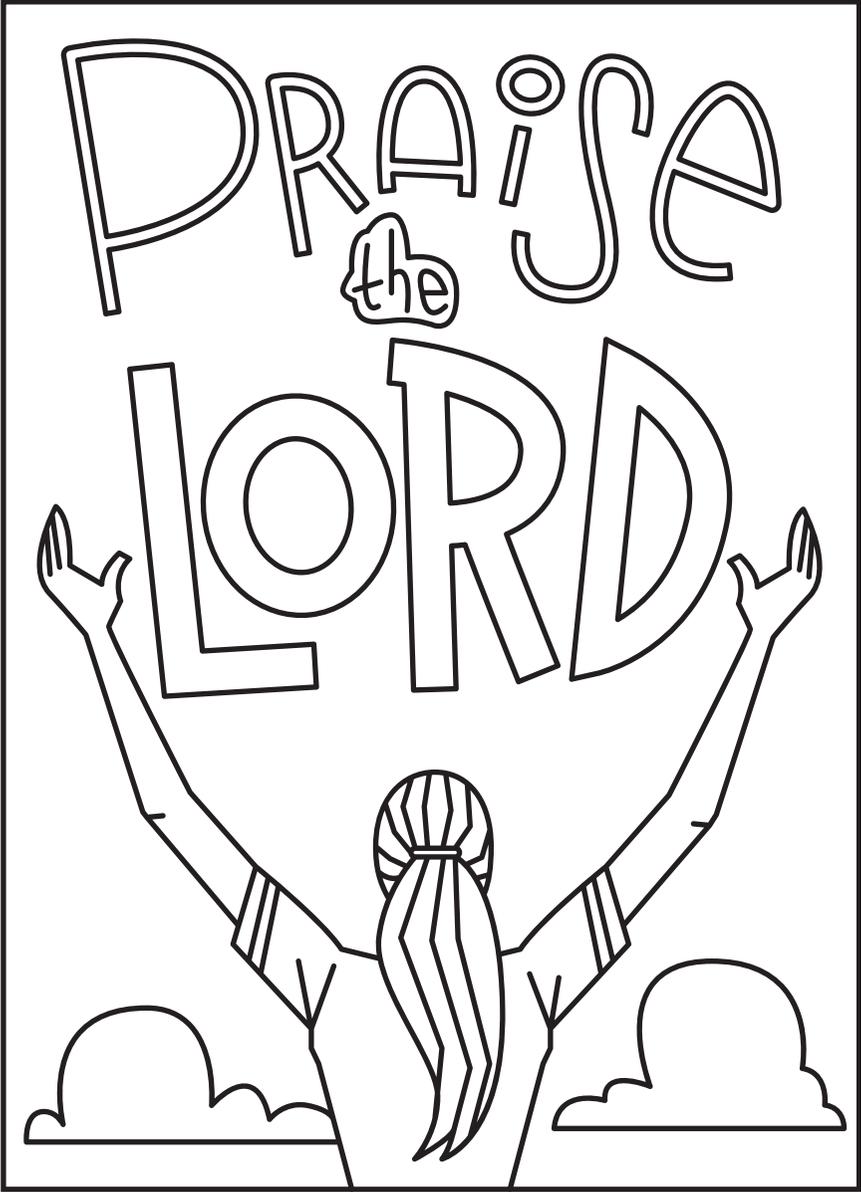
Fannye and Frederick Wilson - My Parents gave us the best moral and educational foundations! We LOVE and Thank them both!!

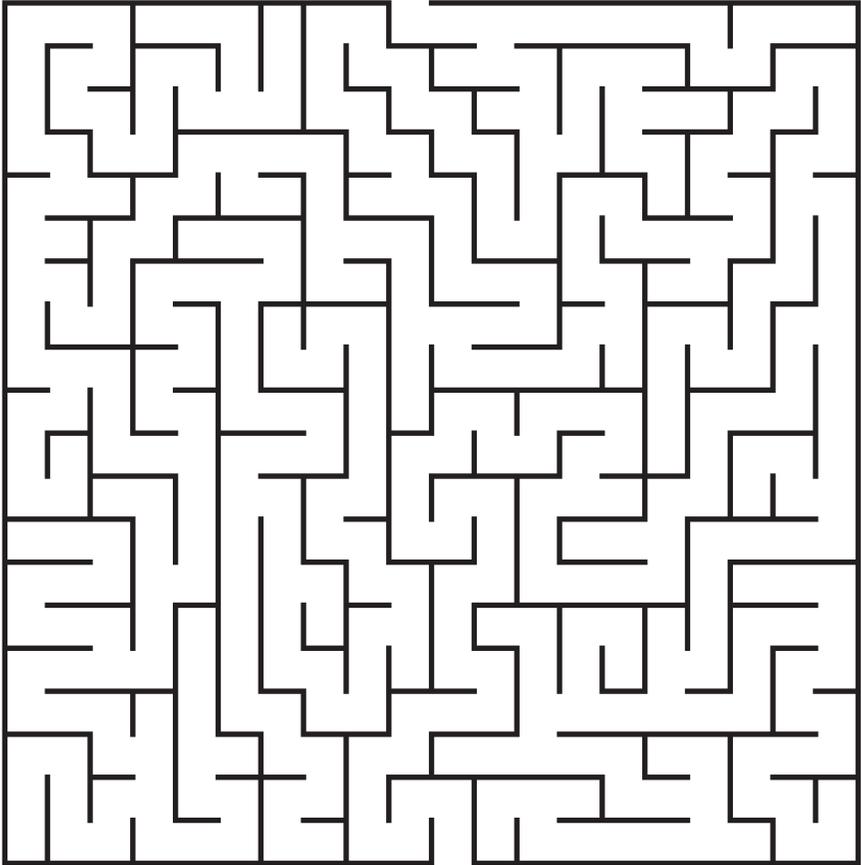
Michael Winger - In memory of Jane Curtis and David Curtis Winger

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



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





## **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](http://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](http://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](http://trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen) to listen now.

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) 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!

## **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://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](http://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.

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## **PARKING - 12/26/2021**

**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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**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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