

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 24, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*Matt King, piano, melodica*  
*Dave Richards, bass*  
*Jonathon Peretz, drums*

## WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mindy Wilkinson, Athena Wilkinson, Latoya Wilkinson, & Vanessa Panchoo

## CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (stanza 1)  
O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, Born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Meisenheimer

One: The angel came to Mary and said, "Call him Emmanuel."

**All: God is with us.**

One: He was born among the poor people and cared for the people who felt rejected. Call him Emmanuel.

**All: God is with us.**

One: He shared a message of love and forgiveness from God and told the people to repent. Call him Emmanuel.

**All: God is with us.**

One: We celebrate the birth of Jesus because in him all things are made new. Call him Emmanuel.

**All: God is with us.**

One: Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Son of God, Light of the world. Call him Emmanuel.

**All: God is with us.**

One: Call him Emmanuel.

**All: God is with us.**

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Stephen Pierre-Paul

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

*(International Children's Bible)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

#### **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

*Refrain*

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

*Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*Refrain*

#### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

#### **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing.

#### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

### **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

### **Away In a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

### **Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

Rev. Meisenheimer

## **OFFERING**

### **What Child Is This?**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*Refrain*

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Meisenheimer

### **Nativity Play Cast (in order of appearance)**

Angel – Victoria Anderson

Mary – Latoya Wilkinson

Joseph – Stephen Pierre-Paul

Innkeeper – Carrie Quarquesso

Shepherd – Min. Richard X III

Wiseperson – Min. Charlene Wingate

### **Musicians**

Matt King, piano, melodica

Mike Karn, bass

Tim Horner, drums

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**COVER ART:**

Betsy Meisenheimer

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## **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 - 12/24/2021**

**Parking is available** in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 12:00 a.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

# CONNECT WITH US.

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**Rev. Michael Livingston**  
Interim Senior Minister  
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

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## Pastoral and Program Staff

**Meighan Corbett**  
Director of Stewardship & Development  
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Creaghan**  
Interim Director of Music & Organist  
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper**  
Minister of Older Adults  
lharper@trcnyc.org

**Rich Glassey**  
Executive Director of Operations  
rglassey@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Jim Keat**  
Digital Minister  
jkeat@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Bruce Lamb**  
Minister of Faith Formation  
blamb@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer**  
Minister of Children & Families  
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

**Shanniel Morrison**  
Property Manager  
smorrison@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Dr. Debra Northern**  
Minister of Parish Care  
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

**Carrie Quarquesso**  
Coordinator for Worship & Arts  
cquarquesso@trcnyc.org

**Min. Richard X III**  
Assistant Minister of Faith Formation  
rx@trcnyc.org

**Brian Simpson**  
Director Of Communications & Strategy  
bsimpson@trcnyc.org

## 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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