

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 24, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE  
LESSONS & CAROLS

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

*The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,  
The festive mood spreading lilted magic everywhere,  
The gifts of recollection calling to heart the graces of life,  
The star in the sky calling to mind the wisdom of hope,  
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,  
The birth of a child linking past to future,  
The symbol of love absorbing all violence,  
This is Christmas.*

– Howard Thurman

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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 Christmas, as signified by white altar pieces and clergy stoles, symbolizing joy in the light of day.

## CARILLON

Introit for Christmas Eve  
O, Holy Night  
The First Nowell  
They Came to Bethlehem  
Jesus, Rest Your Head  
Away in a Manger  
Este Ramito de Flores  
Silent Night  
Gabriel's Message

Ronald Barnes  
*arr.* Albert Gerken  
Ludo Geloen  
*arr.* Charles Ward  
*arr.* Charles Ward  
*arr.* Milford Myhre  
*arr.* Carol Anne Taylor  
*arr.* Jo Haazen  
*arr.* Sally Warner

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

## HANDBELLS

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Silent Night  
Lo, How a Rose  
Angels We Have Heard on High  
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing  
O Come, All Ye Faithful

*arr.* Daniel Potter  
*arr.* Theodore Beck  
*arr.* Michael Praetorius  
*arr.* Daniel Potter  
*arr.* John Klein  
*arr.* Daniel Potter

*The Riverside Ringers  
Daniel Potter, director*

## HARP

Selected Carol Arrangements

*Carlos Salzedo*

*Jennifer Hoult, harp*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**O Come All Ye Faithful**  
**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;**

*Adeste Fideles*

*Chorus:*

**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**Christ, the Lord.**

**God from God, Light from Light eternal,**  
**Lo! he rejects not the Virgin's womb;**  
**Only begotten Son of the Creator;**

*Chorus*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**  
**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;**  
**Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

*Chorus*

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh to gaze;  
We too will thither bend our  
joyful footsteps;

*Chorus*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born on Christmas morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of God, now in flesh  
appearing;

*Chorus*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reginald O. Evans, Jr. & Zachary Tyler Newton

### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Michael Livinston

One: On this holiest of nights...

**All: we come, joining the shepherds  
who are stunned by wonder.**

One: On this most silent night,

**All: we come, our hopes and dreams  
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

One: On this night of carols and candlelight,

**All: we come, our glad songs joining  
with the choirs of angels over us.  
Come let us worship!**

### OPENING PRAYER

### INTROIT

Hodie (This Day)

*James Whitbourn*

Hodie Christus natus est. (Today Christ is born.) The holy child is born. In his love our hope does rest on this eternal morn. Cherubs with trumpets shatter the stars. Seraphs touch their strings. Saints, angels, choirs are massed. The Word seeds the heav'n in rings. In a blessed stable a picture is seen. Parents, Jesus there. An ass looking on, an ox beaming at the best hay of the year. The wise men are no longer wise: God in the crib has bewildered them. They place their gifts around the sides. Kneel and pray. Adore him. Yet in this joy is sensed a shadow, an intimation of loss. A ghostly fear of a dark tomorrow with thorns and a heavy cross. But now the heav'ns spin fast around, its jubilation day. Infinity's ears are whipped by sound, would this day so stay. Hodie Christus natus est.

## FIRST LESSON

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

God creates the world and humankind within it.

Genesis 1:1–5, 26–31

*(page 1 in the Old Testament)*

## CAROL

Adam Lay yBounden

*Boris Ord*

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all was for an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, ne had never our lady a-been heaven-é queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was, Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias*.

## SECOND LESSON

Min. Richard X III

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:15–18

*(page 18 in the Old Testament)*

## CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

*Mark Paterson*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:  
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive:  
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,  
the glory which I now can see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

*Christopher Judd, baritone*

## THIRD LESSON

Rev. Geraldine Howard

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

*(page 638 in the Old Testament)*

## CAROL

### On Christmas Night

*Philip Ledger*

On Christmas Night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad;  
When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and children with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night;  
"Glory to God and peace on earth, now we all celebrate His birth.

*Christopher Judd, baritone*

## FOURTH LESSON

Dr. Cheryl Dudley

Micah voices Israel's hope for a Davidic ruler to bring peace.

Micah 5:2-4

*(page 865 in the Old Testament)*

## CAROL 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*St. Louis*

## FIFTH LESSON

Rev. Bruce Lamb

The angel Gabriel salutes Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*(page 56 in the New Testament)*

## CAROL

### Bogoroditse Devo

*Sergei Rachmaninoff*

Virgin mother of God, hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast brought forth the Savior who redeemed our souls.

## SIXTH LESSON

Min. Charlene Wingate

Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7

*(page 58 in the New Testament)*

Jesus is born.

## CAROL

### O Magnum Mysterium

*Nancy Wertsch*

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

*Manami Hattori, soprano*

*Jennifer Hoult, harp*

## SEVENTH LESSON

Rev. Jim Keat

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8–16

*(page 58 in the New Testament)*

## CAROL

### A Cradle Song

*David Hurd*

Sweet dreams form a shade  
o'er my lovely infant's head:  
sweet dreams of pleasant streams  
by happy, silent, moony beams.

Sleep, sleep, happy child,  
all creation slept and smiled;  
sleep, sleep, happy sleep,  
while o'er thee thy mother weep.

Sweet babe, in thy face  
holy image can I trace.  
Sweet babe, once like thee,  
thy Maker lay, and wept for me;

Wept for me, for thee, for all,  
when He was an infant small.  
Thou His image ever see,  
heavenly face that smiles on thee.

Smiles on thee, on me, on all,  
who became an infant small.  
Infant smiles are His own smiles;  
heaven and earth to peace beguiles.

## EIGHTH LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

*(page 2 in the New Testament)*

## CAROL

### Love Came Down at Christmas

*John Rutter*

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love shall be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and to all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

## NINTH LESSON

Rev. Livingston

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

*(page 91 in the New Testament)*

## CAROL 31

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

## OFFERING

David Orcutt

## HANDBELLS

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

*arr. Jason Krug*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### Nativity Carol

*John Rutter*

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; Born 'neath light of star he who loved us so. Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

*Cynthia Powell, conductor*

**AT THE PRESENTATION: *In The Bleak Midwinter***

*Cranham*

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
What I can I give him – give my heart.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Rev. Livingston

**BIDDING PRAYER**

Rev. Livingston

One: Lord, in your mercy,  
**All: Open wide our hearts.**

**ORISON**

Silent Night

*Stille Nacht*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 40**

Joy to the World

*Antioch*

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**VOLUNTARY**

Toccata on “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

*David Willcocks*

## COVER ART

The cover art for today's bulletin comes from *The St. John's Bible*, a hand-illuminated Bible currently being hosted at Riverside.

Learn more at [www.saintjohnsbible.org](http://www.saintjohnsbible.org).

*Birth of Christ*, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Rev. Geraldine Howard & Dr. Cheryl Dudley.*

**LITURGICAL RESOURCES FOR TODAY**

<sup>1</sup> reWorship.com

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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:am 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  
lharp@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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