

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



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

JANUARY 2, 2021  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

# 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:

Today, we celebrate the light. We have to heal, mend, nurture, resist, speak the truth to the powers that rule our lives, rule the world, rule the planet—God's creation, all of it. All of us. All of life. There has to be enough time to save our children. There has to be enough time to save our planet. But only if we turn this around right now, with the greatest power in the universe, the power of love. The love that looks, and sounds, and acts like justice in the public square.

-Michael Livingston

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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 Epiphany, as signified by white paraments and clergy stoles, symbolizing joy in the light of Christ's birth.

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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 an-thems and singing in the chancel.

## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Fantasia on 'The Fairest Rose'  
Schlafendes Jesuskind

*Ann Kristine Christianson  
Hugo Wolf, arr. Roy Kroezen*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Greensleeves

*Richard Purvis*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

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

Rev. Geraldine Howard

One: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**All: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.**

One: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**All: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

One: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**All: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy. Let us find our Hope as we worship together with Christ.**

### INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN 63

**As with Gladness Men of Old**

*Dix*

### LISTENING

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Min. Richard X III

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

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### SOLO

Rejoice, from "Messiah"

*George Frederick Handel*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, thy king cometh unto thee. For he is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

*Liz Lang, soprano*

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Geraldine Howard

Isaiah 60:1-6

*(page 690 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

Carol Fouke-Mpoyo

Ephesians 3:1-12

*(pages 193 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 68

**What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright**

*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Min. X III

Matthew 2:1-12

*(page 2 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Livingston

We Celebrate the Light

### RESPONDING

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

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Meighan Corbett

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**There Shall A Star**

*Felix Mendelssohn*

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea; behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem there came the wise men and said:

Say, where is he born, the king of Judea? For we have seen his star, and are come to adore him. Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of thy rising.

(from Christus, Op. 97)

*Liz Lang, soprano, Erik Rasmussen, tenor  
Nicholas Hay, baritone, Jonathan Guss, bass*

## 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

Min. X III

*Today we celebrate the work of our Communion Ministry, which faithfully prepares and serves Communion for worship on the first Sunday of each month and other special liturgical services throughout the year.*

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Geraldine Howard

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

Min. X III

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Livingston

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al-might - y;  
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo - ry be to you, O God.  
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

## CALL TO SUPPER

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!**

One: The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!**

*For those worshiping online, you may join us at this time with your own gathered elements as we take communion as one church together.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

### CHOIR

What Is this Lovely Fragrance?

*Healey Willan*

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring! Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty hear you not heavenly caroling? What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wondering eyes? Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies. Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Saviour, born today. Low at His feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.

**PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

Rev. Howard

**CLOSING HYMN 411**

**Arise, Your Light is Come!**

*Festal Song*

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

*Keith Chapman*

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Rev. Geraldine Howard,  
Carol Fouke-Mpoyo & Meighan Corbett*

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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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.



# CONNECT WITH US.

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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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