

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



**I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA,  
THE BEGINNING AND THE END.**

DECEMBER 31, 2021

WATCHNIGHT

# 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 this question..”:

How can you see the “new” in a place like Patmos?  
- Min. Richard X III

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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.

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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.

## HYMN 262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

*National Hymn*

### CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 90<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Michael Livingston

One: Eternal and Immortal One, you have been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, before you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: You are the Alpha and the Omega. Our times are in your hands.**

One: For our days on earth are a mystery, a searching for you, a yearning for the great Mystery to make itself known. Teach us, O Beloved, to honor each day that we may have a heart of wisdom.

**All: You are the Alpha and the Omega. Our times are in your hands.**

One: When our days on Earth are ended, you welcome us home to your heart, to the City of Light, where time is eternal and our days are not numbered. You gather those who love you as friends returning from a long journey.

**All: You are the Alpha and the Omega. Our times are in your hands.**

One: Awaken us, O Holy One! Help us wait - listening for your gentle voice. Oh, that we might be converted in our hearts and walk together in peace and harmony! Let your love be known to the nations and your glory to our children's children.

**All: You are the Alpha and the Omega. Our times are in your hands.**

## INVOCATION

### INTROIT

Ring Out, Wild Bells

*Alan Tregaskis*

Ring out, wild bells to the wild sky, the flying cloud, the frosty light; the year is dying in the night, ring out, ring out wild bells, and let it die. Ring out the old, ring in the new, ring, happy bells across the snow; the year is going, let it go, ring out, ring out the false, ring in the true. Ring in the valiant ones and free, the larger heart, the kindlier hand, Ring out the darkness of the land, ring in, ring in the Christ that is to be. Ring out!

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Min. Richard X III

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

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### ANTHEM

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah<sup>2</sup>

*Trad. Appalachian*

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 43:18-20

*(page 672 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Kara Dago-Clark

### HYMN 210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*St. Anne*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 21:1-5

*(page 259 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Kara Dago-Clark

### MEDITATION

Min. X III

A Promise in Patmos

### PASTORAL PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

Rev. Livingston

### 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

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Livingston

## ANTHEM

Concertato on “O God, Beyond All Praising”

*Gustav Holst, arr. Richard Proulx*

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord. The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die, its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high; but hidden from all nature the eternal Seed is sown – though small in mortal stature, to heaven’s garden grown: O wondrous gift from heaven, the earth will find release, her nations will be given the heart to strive for peace. Then hear, O great creator, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as we sing; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to praise you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

## AT THE PRESENTATION: 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. Livingston

## CHORAL MEDITATION

Now I Walk in Beauty

*Navajo Prayer, arr. Greg Smith*

## THE SWINGING OF THE GREAT TOWER BELLS

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Min. X III

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

*Cwm Rhondda*

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

## POSTLUDE

Processional

*Christopher Tambling*

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Liturgical Resources for Today:

<sup>1</sup>*Psalm 90 (Translation from Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness by Nan Merrill).*

<sup>2</sup>*Text found at Hymn 281*

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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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## CONTACT US:

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*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/directory](http://trcnyc.org/directory)*



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