

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

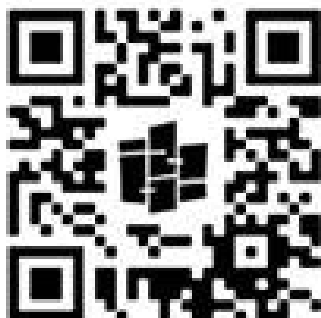
Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

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 Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is signified by purple paraments and clergy stoles representing the sovereignty of Christ (except for Communion Sundays when the liturgical color is white). Each week we light a candle in the wreath on the Nave floor for the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy (pink) and love.

Whats happening at Riverside?

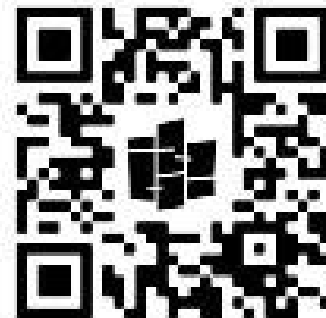
Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below.



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.





CARILLON

Introit for Christmas Eve
Concert Variations on Westminster
Come All Ye Shepherds
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Away in a Manger
Silent Night
Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Ronald Barnes
Richard Von Grabow
arr. Theophil Rusterholz
arr. Richard S. Willis
arr. Beverly Buchanan
arr. Albert Gerken
arr. Milford Myhre
arr. Albert Gerken

Lynni Wang, Assistant Carillonneur

HANDBELLS

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

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

The Riverside Ringers
Daniel Potter, director

ORGAN

Greensleeves
Prelude on 'The Holly and the Ivy'
God's Son is Come (BWV 600)
Christmas Pastoral on 'Stille Nacht'

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
Herbert Sumson
Johann Sebastian Bach
Roger C. Wilson

Christopher Creaghan, organist

+All who are able, please stand

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Adeste Fideles

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;

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,
Lol 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

+ *All who are able, please stand*

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Adriene Thome

One: Family of God, siblings in Christ: hope, peace, joy, and love will be born this night.

All: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!**

One: God sent Jesus, Savior, Redeemer, and Friend, into the world to dwell among us.

All: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!**

One: Shepherds shout, wise ones bow down, angels rejoice and sing.

All: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!**

One: Join with the company of heaven and earth, proclaiming the good news Jesus Christ is born!

All: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors! Let us worship.**

OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT

On This Day

H. C. Stewart

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Son, Christ the King.

Born on earth to save us, Him the Father gave us.

Ideo, Ideo, Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

His, the doom, ours the mirth, when He came down to earth, Bethlehem was His birth, ox and ass beside Him, from the cold would hide Him.

Ideo, Ideo, Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

God's bright star, o'er His head, wise men three to Him led, kneel they low by His bed, lay heir gifts before Him, praise Him and adore Him.

Ideo, Ideo, Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

On this day Angels sing, with their song earth shall ring praising Christ Heaven's King. Born on earth to save us, peace and love He gave us.

Ideo, Ideo, Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

+All who are able, please stand

FIRST LESSON

God creates the world and humankind within it.

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

(pg. 1 in the Old Testament)

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

CAROL

This is the Truth sent from Above

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The first thing, which I do relate,
Is that God did man create
The next thing, which to you I tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after this, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain from evil free
Except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin.
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That God redeem us with a Son.

†*All who are able, please stand*

SECOND LESSON

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

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

Genesis 22:15-18

(pg. 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

+All who are able, please stand

THIRD LESSON

Rev. Jim Keat

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(pg. 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.

+All who are able, please stand

FOURTH LESSON

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

Micah 5:2-4

(pg. 865 in the Old Testament)

Rev. Charlene Wingate

CAROL 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

(pg. 56 in the New Testament)

Rev. Thome

CAROL

Mary's Magnificat

Softly a light is stealing,

Sweetly a maiden sings,

Ever wakeful, ever wistful,

Watching faithfully, thankfully,

Tenderly her King of kings.

Andrew Carter

My soul doth magnify,

Doth magnify the Lord;

And my spirit hath rejoiced,

Rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus

Softly serenely sings:

"I will love you, I will serve you,

May my lullaby glorify,

Magnify my King of kings".

Lullaby, lullaby.

Catherine Tyrrell, soprano

†*All who are able, please stand*

SIXTH LESSON

Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7

(pg. 58 in the *New Testament*)

Rev. Casteel Harper

CAROL

Some Children See Him

Some children see Him lily white,
the baby Jesus born this night.

Some children see Him lily white,
with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
The Lord of heav'n to earth come down.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
with dark and heavy hair.

Alfred Burt

Some children see Him almond-eyed,
this Savior whom we kneel beside.

some children see Him almond-eyed,
with skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they,
sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.

Some children see him dark as they,
and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place
will see the baby Jesus' face
like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace,
and filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing
and with thy heart as offering,
come worship now the infant King.
'Tis love that's born tonight!

Russell Saint John, baritone

+All who are able, please stand

SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

(pg. 58 in the New Testament)

Rev. Meisenheimer

CAROL

When Jordan Hushed It's Waters Still

When Jordan hushed it's waters still,

And silence slept on Zion's hill;

When Bethlehem's shepherds through the night,

Watched o'er their flocks by starry light;

George Oldroyd

Lol Swift to every startled eye,

New streams of glory fire the sky,

Heaven's azure gates are oped to pour

Its armies on the midnight hour.

On wheels of light, on wings of flame,

The gratulating myriads came;

High Heaven with songs triumph rung,

While loud they struck their harps and sung.

To God the Lord of power and might,

Be glory in the highest height,

For peace on earth proclaim agen,

And tidings of goodwill to mankind. Amen.

EIGHTH LESSON

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

(pg. 2 in the New Testament)

Rev. Keat

+All who are able, please stand

CAROL

The Lamb

Nancy Wertsch

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;

Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:

He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb,
He is meek, and he is mild;
He became a little child.

I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name,
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Liz Lang, soprano

NINTH LESSON

Rev. Thorne

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

(pg. 91 in the *New Testament*)

+ *All who are able, please stand*

CAROL 31
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

OFFERING

Rev. Casteel Harper

HANDBELLS Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

arr. Daniel Potter

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother?
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing "The Christ child is born".

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him
Seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their saviour
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger
Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

+All who are able, please stand

+ 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 one, I would do my part;
What I can I give him – give my heart.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Wingate

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Thorne

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. Thorne

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

David Willcocks

+ All who are able, please stand

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. Adriene Thorne, 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/loc for more information.

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add ccommunications@trcnyc.org to your "safe sender list" or visit 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 to download the app and stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS

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 for the complete schedule.

CHURCH NURSERY OPEN

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30-12:30 during worship staffed by trained nursery workers. For location please see an usher or security guard.

PARKING - 12/24/2022

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 11:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

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