

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE
DECEMBER 3, 2023 | 11:00 AM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.

As you prepare your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote:

“Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.”

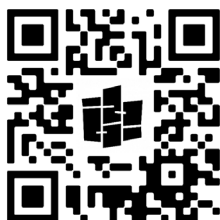
—Augustine of Hippo

A question for reflection:

What wall will you commit to break down this Advent and what wound will you bind up?

What's happening at Riverside?

You can find a printed calendar listed in the back of your bulletin!



Give by your phone.

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover art by Jamil De Honney.

Inspired by James 1:27

We are on the Advent journey to Bethlehem tasked with living a religion that is true. This Advent I, we focus on HOPE by breaking down walls and binding up wounds.

*Riverside worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online.
If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, we invite you to sit in the balcony.*



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Three Carillon Preludes for Advent
Rejoice, the Lord is King!
There's a Voice in the Wilderness
Prepare the Way, O Zion

Geert D' hollander

Adventi Enek

Zoltan Kodaly, arr. Gideon Bodden

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee
Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

Johann Sebastian Bach

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *standing as able*

One: The days are surely coming
when our love for one another
and all of God's children will lead to the flourishing of life.

***All:* We live into that time
with hope.**

One: The days are surely coming
when God will strengthen our hearts
with humility and healing.

***All:* We anticipate that day, serving our siblings, with hope.**

One: The days are surely coming
when we will break down the walls
between us and bind up the wounds we've inflicted.

***All:* We begin this Advent journey,
knowing that all of God's hopeful promises will be fulfilled.**

¹ "First Nation Version (FNV) recounts the Creator's Story - the Christian Scriptures - following the tradition of Native storytellers' oral culture. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of First Nations people. The FNV is a dynamic equivalence translation that captures the simplicity, clarity, and beauty of Native storytellers in English, while remaining faithful to the original language of the New Testament."

INVOCATION *remain standing*

OPENING HYMN 20 *remain standing, sung by all*
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Robbie Patterson and Tedde Tasheff

INTROIT

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

ANTHEM

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. Dale Wood

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, O Christ, thou Saviour of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call. To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole creation groan. Till thou, Redeemer shouldst free thine own in glorious liberty. And when the world drew on toward night, thou camest, not in splendor bright as monarch, but the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild. At thy great name of Jesus now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: and things celestial thee shall own, of things terrestrial, Lord alone. Come in thy holy might, we pray; redeem us for eternal day. Defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe. To God Creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one. Laud, honor, might, and glory be, from age to age eternally. Amen.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Patricia McClure

Mark 8:27-29

One: This is the Gospel of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 11 *standing as able, sung by all*

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE READING

Susan Walcott and Rev. Will Nichols

Jeremiah 33:14-18

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Hope: True Religion Heals

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sin. Who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord almighty God who was and is, and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY *standing as able, sung by all*

The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.

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 *remain standing* Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Social Services programs, which is continuing to offer comprehensive services for those in economic and social crisis by providing food, clothing, and many other resources year-round, and throughout this global event.

PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

Following each petition, join in the following response:

One: O Christ, our light is coming.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 THE TABLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Colleen Birchett

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.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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



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!

ORGAN

Improvisation on *Conditor Alme*

Alan Montgomery

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

Johann Crueger, arr. Winfred Douglas

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness. Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness. Come into the daylight's splendor. There with joy thy praises render. Unto God whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous banquet founded. High over all the heavens God reigneth, yet to dwell with thee God deigneth. Sun, who all my life dost brighten; light, who dost my soul enlighten; joy, the sweetest one ever knoweth; found, whence all my being floweth. At thy feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, thy glory given.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

All: Compassionate God, you have met us in the bread and cup at your table. As we go from this place may we receive strength to walk with all your children in peace, and witness to the truth of your reconciliation and love. Amen.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 6 *remain standing, sung by all*

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE

Rhapsody on Helmsley

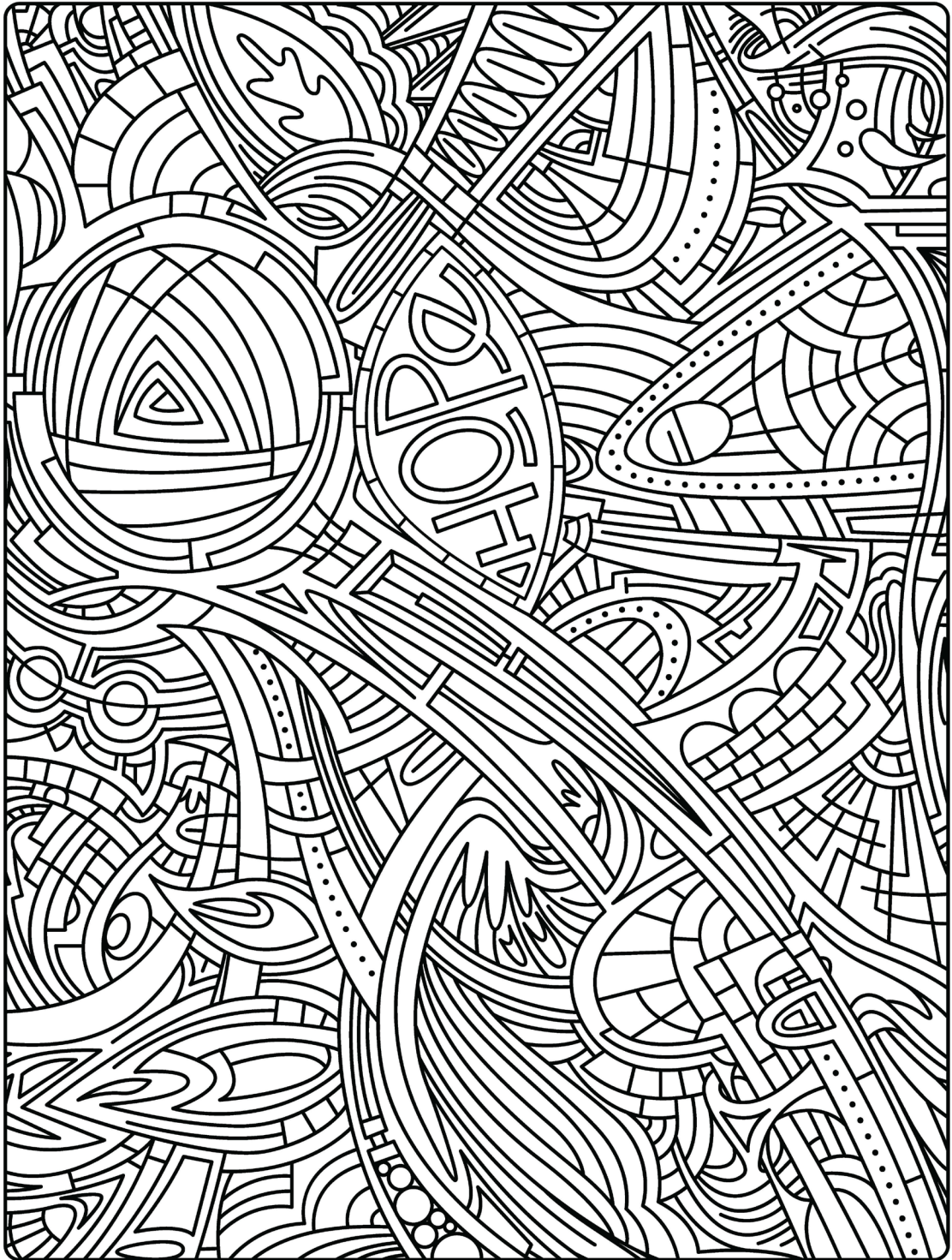
William Lloyd Webber

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

WORLD AIDS DAY

We wear red ribbons this World AIDS Day Sunday with the theme of “World AIDS Day 35: Remember and Commit.” This annual commemoration serves as a reminder of the global struggle to end HIV-related stigma, an opportunity to honor those we have lost, and a rallying cry to commit to working toward a day when HIV is no longer a public health threat.

The first World AIDS Day took place in 1988, providing a platform to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and honor the lives affected by the epidemic. This year marks the 35th commemoration of this important day. Over the past 35 years, there has been significant progress in addressing HIV and AIDS thanks to advancements in medical research, increased access to treatment and prevention, and a broader understanding of the virus.



TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK	9:00 AM
Open Bible Study	330 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Absolute Beginners Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Rising Voices Rehearsal	Chapel of the Cross	9:30 AM
Cherub Choir Rehearsal	717 MLK	9:30 AM
Youth Choir Rehearsal	Chapel of the Cross	10:15 AM
Church Nursery Open	See Usher or Security for Location	10:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall	After Service
AdventFest	South Hall	12:30 PM
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	12:30 PM
Intermediate-Advanced Biblical Hebrew	314 MLK & Online	1:30 PM
Carillon Recital: Music for Advent		3:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tai Chi	Cloister Lounge (Child Care Room)	3:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
-----------------------	--------	---------

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Advanced Beginners Biblical Hebrew II	Online	5:00 PM
Space for Grace	9T & Online	7:00 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Chair Exercise & Program	Online	1:30 PM
Personnel & Salary Committee Meeting	Online	6:00 PM
Riverside Writing Group	Online	6:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Maranatha Celebration with a Purpose	9T	7:00 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Riverside Book Club: Poverty by America	Online	11:00 AM
--	--------	----------

COMING SOON

Christmas Pageant	Sunday, December 10	During Service
Thunderbird Dance Workshop	Sunday, December 10	1:30 PM
Handel: Judas Maccabaeus (HWV 63)	Thursday, December 14	7:00 PM
The Parents Circle: "United in Grief"	Saturday, December 16	10:30 AM
Bs & Ps Christmas Tea	Sunday, December 17	1:30 PM
Candlelight Carol Festival	Sunday, December 17	4:00 PM
Christmas Eve Children & Families	Sunday, December 24	4:00 PM
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols	Sunday, December 24	7:00 PM
New Year's Eve Watchnight	Sunday, December 31	11:00 PM



Visit trcnyc.org/LOC or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

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

RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at trcnyc.org/email. If you're not receiving them, add communications@trcnyc.org to your "Safe Sender list."

MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE

Membership is about responding to God's call on your life to step up and belong to this community as you pursue the passion God has set in your heart. By joining The Riverside Church you are taking the next step to partner with us as we seek to cultivate a community of justice, peace, and love that transforms the world. Visit trcnyc.org/membership to find out more.

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

These recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 PM 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 and programs.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this bulletin and your parking ticket to the attendant on the upper level to receive this discounted rate, pay, and pick up your car. This discounted rate applies to Sundays only.

CHURCH NURSERY

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 AM-12:30 PM and is staffed by trained nursery workers. For location, please see an usher or security guard.

VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to serving in our Communion and Greeters ministries, providing support in our Food Pantry and Clothing Distribution programs, to making a digital impact through our Digital Ministry, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, establish connections with those who share your passion and purpose, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Join Riverside's volunteer family and let your light shine in all the ways that matter. Visit trcnyc.org/volunteer for more information.

PRACTICING SABBATH

On first Sundays after worship, we Practice Sabbath as a community. There will be no all church programming on first Sundays, with the exception of the Rising Voices Concert in May. Programming before worship will continue on all Sundays unless otherwise noted. We will have lunch available for purchase in South Hall, as always.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

On first Sundays, if you have a little more to share, consider bringing a few canned goods with you to support the Riverside Food Pantry. There will be a table placed just below the pulpit for your donations. There will also be shopping carts in the narthex (lobby to the nave) as well as a cart near the security desk. You are making it possible for someone to bring home the staples of a meal. Below are some of the items needed:

- Tuna
- Rice
- Canned Ravioli/Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Dry Pasta
- Spaghetti/Tomato Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Dry Beans (Pinto, Black, White or Kidney)
- Canned Beans (Pinto, Black, White or Kidney)
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Individual Sized Apple Sauce/Fruit Cups
- Hot and/or Cold Cereals (oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Corn Flakes)
- Peanut Butter
- Juices (apple, orange, grape or pineapple)
- Baby Foods (assorted)
- Pampers for various ages (newborn – toddlers)

CONNECT WITH US

Rev. Adriene Thorne

Senior Minister

To reach Rev. Thorne, please contact Kathrin Gabriel-Jones, Executive Assistant at kgabriel-jones@trcnyc.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Interim Minister for Parish Care and
Director of Social Services
lharp@trcnyc.org

Rev. Jim Keat

Digital Minister
jkeat@trcnyc.org

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

Interim Minister for Intergenerational
Christian Education and Formation
ameisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Minister of Justice, Advocacy and
Change
msjoyner@trcnyc.org

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

Worship Consultant
lmweaver@trcnyc.org

Program and Administration Team

Meighan Corbett

Director of Stewardship & Development
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

Natalie Fein

Chief Operating Officer
nfein@trcnyc.org

Natalie Graves Tucker

Director of Communications and Media
ngtucker@trcnyc.org

Alan Montgomery

Interim Director of Music
amontgomery@trcnyc.org

CONTACT US:

To contact the church with general
questions, call 212-870-6700 or email
communications@trcnyc.org

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



trcnyc.org



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK