

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS EVE: LESSONS AND CAROLS
DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 7:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

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



Cover art by Jamil De Honney.

*With joyful singing, we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child,
the One who embodied and modeled true religion.*

*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.*



CARILLON

Introit for Christmas Eve

Novena di Natale

Little Fife

The Flock and the Angel

The Manger

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

The Huron Indian Carol

Concert Variations on *Gloria*

What Child is This?

Ronald Barnes

Nino Rota

arr. Richard Giszczak

Richard von Grabow

arr. Albert Gerken

Charles Semowich, *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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Prelude on 'The Holly and the Ivy'

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Greensleeves

Johannes Brahms

Herbert Sumsion

Richard Purvis

arr. Richard Purvis

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *standing as able, sung by all*
O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

All: 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;

Refrain:

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

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created;

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Wilkinson Family
Liseli, Athena, Latoya, and Vanessa

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *standing as able*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

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.*

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God creates the world and humankind within it.

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

CAROL

This is the Truth Sent From Above

Ralph Vaughan Williams
arr. James Kirkby

*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.*

*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.*

SECOND LESSON

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

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

Genesis 22:15-18

CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

*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.*

*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.*

*I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus 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.*

THIRD LESSON

Rev. Jim Keat

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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.*

Micah voices Israel's hope for a Davidic ruler to bring peace.
Micah 5:2-4

CAROL 44 *standing as able, sung by all*
O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

All: O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

FIFTH LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

The angel Gabriel salutes Mary.
Luke 1:26-35, 38

CAROL
Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

Catherine Fiasca, *soprano*

*Softly a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful,
Watching faithfully, thankfully,
Tenderly her King of kings.*

*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.

SIXTH LESSON

Min. Derrick T. Jordan

Jesus is born.
Luke 2:1-7

CAROL 38 *standing as able, sung by all*
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

All: It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven’s all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

SEVENTH LESSON

Rev. Charlene Wingate

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

CAROL

When Jordan Hushed Its Waters Still

George Oldroyd

*When Jordan hushed its waters still,
And silence slept on Zion's hill;
When Bethlehem's shepherds through the night,
Watched o'er their flocks by starry light:*

*Lo! 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

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.
John 1:1-14

CAROL 31 *standing as able, sung by all*
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

All: Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Refrain

OFFERING

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

HANDBELLS

The First Noel

arr. Jason Krug

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolph Adam
arr. John Rutter

Liz Lang, *soprano*

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from distant land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!
Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!*

AT THE PRESENTATION: In the Bleak Midwinter *standing as able, sung by all*

CRANHAM

All: 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. Lynn Casteel Harper

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Adriene Thorne

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Open wide our hearts.**

ORISON

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Christ, der Retter ist da!*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN 40 *standing as able, sung by all*
Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

VOLUNTARY
Grand Chorus in B-flat

Théodore Dubois

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

CHRISTMAS HONOREES

Contributions were made to support Riverside's Flower Ministry
and to honor these loved ones in all of our lives.



Dorothy Garvin in honor of Carol Garvin.

Gentle and Quiet. Faced adversity with aplomb, calmness and dignity.

Karen Byrd in memory of Patricia Grant.

Bobbie Maniece-Harrison in memory of my parents, John & Susie Maniece.

Roger Thomas in honor of Angelo Arteaga.

Valeria Spann in honor of Rev. Dr. Debra Northern.

Thank you our dear former minister.

Julian Suez in memory of Rhoda How.

Jack, Denise, & Bridget Bolan in memory of Gordon & Angie DeVeau.

With all our love always.

**Clarence and Emily Anderson, in memory of Albert and Bertha Anderson
and Curtis and Justine Butler, our parents.**

Lorraine Burchall in memory of my sister Ruth Burchall-Sanseviro.

I am inspired everyday by the way she lived her life.

Keith Shepherd in honor of Monica Lyn.

Thanks for being you.

**Evelyn Davis in loving memory of my parents, Lillie and Ashley Davis
and my brothers, William and Daniel Davis.**

**Nana and Papa Sherlock in honor of our granddaughters,
Alexandra and Sara Pascarelli.**

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Sunday Morning Worship | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online
New Year's Eve Watch Night Service | 11:00 PM | Nave & Online

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Space for Grace | 7:00 PM | 9T & Online

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online
Joy Regardless Concert | 5:00 PM | Nave

What's happening at Riverside?

Find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.



Give by your phone.

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



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 A. Forbes, Jr., 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

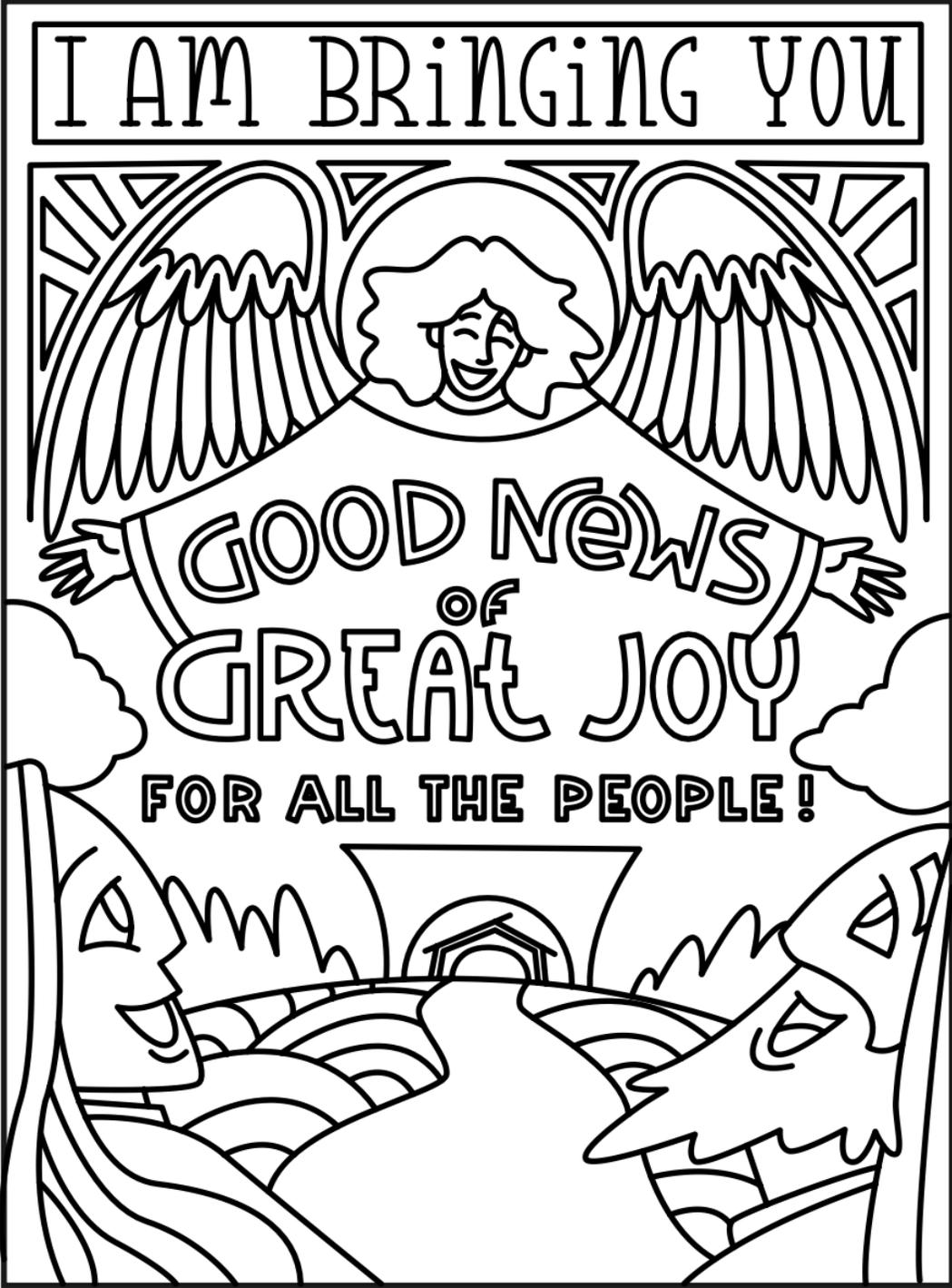
Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM and is staffed by trained nursery workers. For location, please see an usher or security guard.

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.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Matthew 2: 13-23 and Luke 2: 1-20.



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*For full staff directory visit [trcnyc.org/
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trcnyc.org



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