

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 31, 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:

“The wilderness imposes a profound stillness on the river of your soul.”

— Robbie George

A question for reflection:

What good news are you praying for in the new year?

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 Mark 1:1-20.

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

Little Fantasy on *The Rose Everblooming*
Nativity Triptych
Pastorale
Gloria
Cradle Song

Anne-Kirstine Christiansen
Ronald Barnes

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Meditation

Adam Carse

Alan Montgomery, *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *standing as able*

One: Omnipotent God, assure us as we receive the light of Christ on this blessed day!

***All:* Inspire us, O God; let Your face shine upon us so that we may be saved.**

One: For all your wisdom, love, and might, give us new hope, new vision and new life in the company of Christ.

***All:* Empower us, O God; let Your face shine upon us so that we may be saved.**

One: Hear our hearts speak of the joy and pain we have felt throughout our days.

***All:* Restore us, O God; let the love of Christ heal our hearts forever more.**

Let us worship today free of all doubt, embracing a change in Jesus' name.

INVOCATION *remain standing*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49 *remain standing, sung by all*

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Keat

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter, a stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay. Enough for Him, whom Angels aall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and Archangels may have gathered there. Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air. But only His Mother, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

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, — Yet what I can I give Him, — Give my heart.

LISTENING

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

PSALTER SCRIPTURE READING

Micah Niang

Psalm 91:9-12

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

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 53 *standing as able, sung by all*

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Stacey Robinson

Mark 1:1-20

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Good News Begins in the Wilderness

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

R E S P O N D I N G

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

We have heard the word of God read and proclaimed. Now let us pray together.

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

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.

CHORAL AMEN

PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Irene King

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

“As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing peace on earth told us of the Saviour's birth.”

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility!

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. Dr. Colleen Birchett

Today we celebrate the ministry of our Nominating Committee, which connects members of our congregation to each other and to areas of ministry in our community where they can use their gifts in service and love.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 28 *remain standing, sung by all*
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE
Quand Jesus naquit à Noël

Claude Balbastre

Alan Montgomery, *organist*



Mark 1:1-8 • illustratedchildrenministry.com

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Open Bible Study	330 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	12:30 PM
Carillon Recital: New Year's Music		3:00 PM
New Year's Eve Watch Night Service	Nave & Online	11:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM
Advanced Beginners Biblical Hebrew II	Online	5:00 PM
Young Adult Bible Study	313 MLK & Online	6:30 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Personnel & Salary Committee Meeting	Online	6:00 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Knitters & Crocheters	7C	10:00 AM
Beloved Earth Community	Online	1:00 PM

COMING SOON

First Sunday Food Collection	Sunday, January 7	All Day
Practicing Sabbath	Sunday, January 7	After Service
Space for Grace	Wednesday, January 10	7:00 PM
Riverside Book Club	Saturday, January 13	11:00 AM
Joy Regardless Concert	Sunday, January 14	5:00 PM
Winter Sabbath Spiritual Retreat	Friday-Sunday, January 19-21	All Day
The Riverside Choir Benefit Cabaret	Sunday, January 28	1:30 PM
Beyoncé and the Hebrew Bible (Class #2)	Wednesday, January 31	6:30 PM

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 31, 2023

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

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday | 11:00 AM | Nave & Online



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.

THE RIVERSIDE FOOD PANTRY

The Riverside Food Pantry has been providing meals and groceries for 40 years to members of the West Harlem and Morningside Heights communities. The pandemic and inflation have made the last several years particularly challenging, and the food pantry has experienced a four-fold increase in the number of clients seeking food supplies for their household.

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

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Senior Minister

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

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



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