

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 31, 2023 | 11:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

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

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

“The war came and went without my feeling it in the least. Then came the Emancipation, which was welcomed by every colored person, for it was the first time that they were able to say, ‘Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good-will to men,’ without being afraid. I could hear first one and then the other saying, ‘I am free!’”

— Ms. Lizzie Gibson,
formerly enslaved woman

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 DeHonney.

Inspired by the history of Watch Night/Freedom’s Eve and the ongoing work for freedom and human rights for all people.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the historical legacy of Watch Night.

*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 RECITAL

Ode for the New Year

Standing by the Portal
Ship of Time
Sleepers Awake

William Selby
arr. Charles Semowich
arr. Charles Semowich
Jere Hutcheson
arr. Leen't Hart

Charles Semowich, *carillonneur*

ORGAN RECITAL

Cortège et Litanie
Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter
Psalm Prelude No. 2, Op. 32
Six Studies in Canonic Form
iv. Innig
Organ Sonata
i. Allegro Maestoso

Marcel Dupré
Johann Sebastian Bach
Herbert Howells
Robert Schumann

Edward Elgar

Eddie Zheng, *guest organist*

GREETINGS

Rev. Adriene Thorne

CALL TO WORSHIP *standing as able*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

One: Tonight we keep watch.

***All:* Tonight we watch and wait for the freedom that the new year will bring.**

One: We look forward to freedom from all hindrances of hope.

***All:* We look forward to a future of renewal across the globe.**

One: As with generations of old, may we experience God fill our hearts with hope and joy.

***All:* Revive us, O Holy One! We know You are with us, and we are in Your hands.**

Open our hearts to Your messages of hope.

As we listen, let us worship with hopeful anticipation.

INVOCATION *remain standing*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 354 *remain standing, sung by all*

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Keat

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SOLO

Three Spirituals

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho
Go Down, Moses
Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. Lawrence Brown
arr. H.T. Burleigh
arr. Hall Johnson

Russell Saint John, *baritone*

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Charlene Wingate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Steal Away

Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan

Steal away to Jesus! Steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord calls me, he calls me by the thunder. The trumpet sounds within my soul. I ain't got long to stay here. Green trees are bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling. The trumpet sounds within my soul. I ain't got long to stay here.

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. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Today we celebrate every act of ministry that The Riverside Church has done this year, with gratitude for those whose prayers and support have carried us through. Together we are the hands of God extending out to the world as the beloved community of Christ.

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING¹

John 5:1-16

Rev. Dr. Colleen Birchett

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 404 *standing as able, sung by all*

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

SERMON

Sitting at the Edge of Freedom

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER

Congregation prays silently or in hushed voices.

THE SWINGING OF THE GREAT TOWER BELLS

PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Rev. Adriene Thorne

RECESSIONAL HYMN 420 *remain standing, sung by all*

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

BENEDICTION *remain standing*

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

POSTLUDE

Fantasy from *Suite No. 1*

Florence Price

Eddie Zheng, *organist*

² *Common English Bible version.*



Driven by a passion to bring the beauty and grandeur of organ music to wider audiences, **Eddie Zheng** (guest organist) is a rising concert organist who is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at The Juilliard School, under the guidance of Paul Jacobs. Eddie's performances have been "rapturously received" by diverse audiences around cities across the United States, Canada, France, and China. He has won several prominent competitions, including first place awards at the 2018 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition and the 2019 AGO Quimby Northeast Regional Competition.

In addition to concertizing, Eddie is dedicated to broadening the appreciation of organ music and engaging with audiences of all ages through service playing and teaching. He currently serves as Assistant Organist at Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in New York, where he maintains a thriving teaching studio with organ students of all ages.

Eddie's journey with the organ began at the Juilliard Pre-College division, where he studied with Matthew Lewis before earning his combined BM/MM degree from Juilliard with Paul Jacobs.

Highlights from 2023 include performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and at the Geneva Presbyterian Church Organ Festival in Laguna Woods, California. In July, Eddie traveled to Beijing for a solo recital and a masterclass with China Conservatory of Music organ students, before attending a masterclass with Johann Vexo on the Cavaille-Coll organs of Oloron-Sainte-Marie, France.

In his free time, Eddie indulges his passions for fixing motorcycles, collecting books, and brewing espresso. For more information, please visit eddiezheng.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

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

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.

CONNECT WITH US

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



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