

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



NOVEMBER 17, 2019
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Affirming · Welcoming

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

As you prepare yourself for Worship, we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

“Are you waiting on God or is God waiting on you?”

-Rev. Raquel Lettsome

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the green paraments and clergy stoles that represent new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

Complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

A free church tour is offered each Sunday after Worship. Meet in the 1st balcony, no reservation necessary. Tours also take place Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as church schedule permits, leaving from the Welcome Center / Gift Shop. Reservations recommended. Visit trcny.org/visit.

Assistive hearing devices and large print bulletins are available upon request from an usher.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Fantasy on "We Praise God"

Albert de Klerk

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

STRING ENSEMBLE

Gigue from "St. Paul's Suite"

Gustav Holst

*The Riverside Youth String Ensemble
Kristina Giles, director*

ANTHEM

Praise God

*Cherub Choir
Sharon Pritchard, director*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

✚PROCESSIONAL HYMN 361

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

✚CALL TO WORSHIP¹ based on Psalm 98

Hsien-Yu Wang

One: Sing to God a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,

All: for God is still doing marvelous things!

One: Break into joyful song!

All: Sing praises with lyre and melody and trumpets!

One: Let the seas roar and the floods clap their hands!

All: For God is coming to judge the world with righteousness.

One: God is coming to judge the world with equity.

All: Sing to God a new song!

✚INVOCATION

✚*All who are able, please stand*

LISTENING

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

ANTHEM

Yesu Kwetu ni Rafiki (What a Friend We Have in Jesus)²

Charles Crozart Converse, arr. Mark Burrows

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Yesu kwetu ni rafiki, maombi asikia. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Yesu kwetu ni rafiki!

*The Rising Voices Choir
Matthew Hommez, director
Yuliya Basis, accompanist*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Bruce Lamb

Joshua 3:1-13

(pgs. 195-196 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

(pg. 207 in the New Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 450

O Day of Peace

Jerusalem

†GOSPEL LESSON

Christian Rojas

Luke 21:5-19

(pg. 85 in the New Testament)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Raquel Lettsome, Ph.D.

Wet Feet

†*All who are able, please stand*

RESPONDING

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Livingston

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

Pray in the language or version of your heart.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Rev. Lamb

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with a voice of triumph.

For the Lord most high is terrible; God is a great King over all the earth.

God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises everyone who hath understanding. God reigneth over the nations: God sitteth upon the throne of great holiness. Sing praises to God; sing praises unto our King.

†*All who are able, please stand*

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY

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

Rev. Harper

Today we celebrate the work of our Membership Ministry, which is dedicated to accompanying our church members and prospective members on their spiritual journeys.

SENDING

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

✦ RECESSIONAL HYMN 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

BENEDICTION

Please be seated.

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

“Acclamations” from Suite Médiévale

Jean Langlais

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹*Ministry Matters*

²*Portions sung in Swahili*

Special thanks to our congregational leader:

Christian Rojas



The Reverend. Dr. Raquel S. Lettsome is committed to excellence and loves to assist people who desire to move forward in their lives and ministries. To that end, she has integrated over 20 years of congregational ministry experience, extensive biblical and theological training, Spirit-led discernment, and her love of God and people to create RSL Ministries (www.rslministries.com). Dr. Lettsome birthed

✦ *All who are able, please stand*

RSL Ministries out of deep desire to help people develop deeper relationships with God, live out their sense of call, and navigate life's challenges.

Dr. Lettsome's approach to ministry is marked by honest compassion, profound clarity, and practical strategies for reaching one's goals. She is known for creating safe and encouraging spaces for people to strengthen their practice of ministry, for individuals (lay, clergy, or questioning) to discern what God is calling or leading them to do (whether great or small, secular or sacred) and work through what may be blocking their progress in these areas without embarrassment or shame. When all is said and done, she finds great joy in helping people experience, follow, and grow in God in their daily lives.

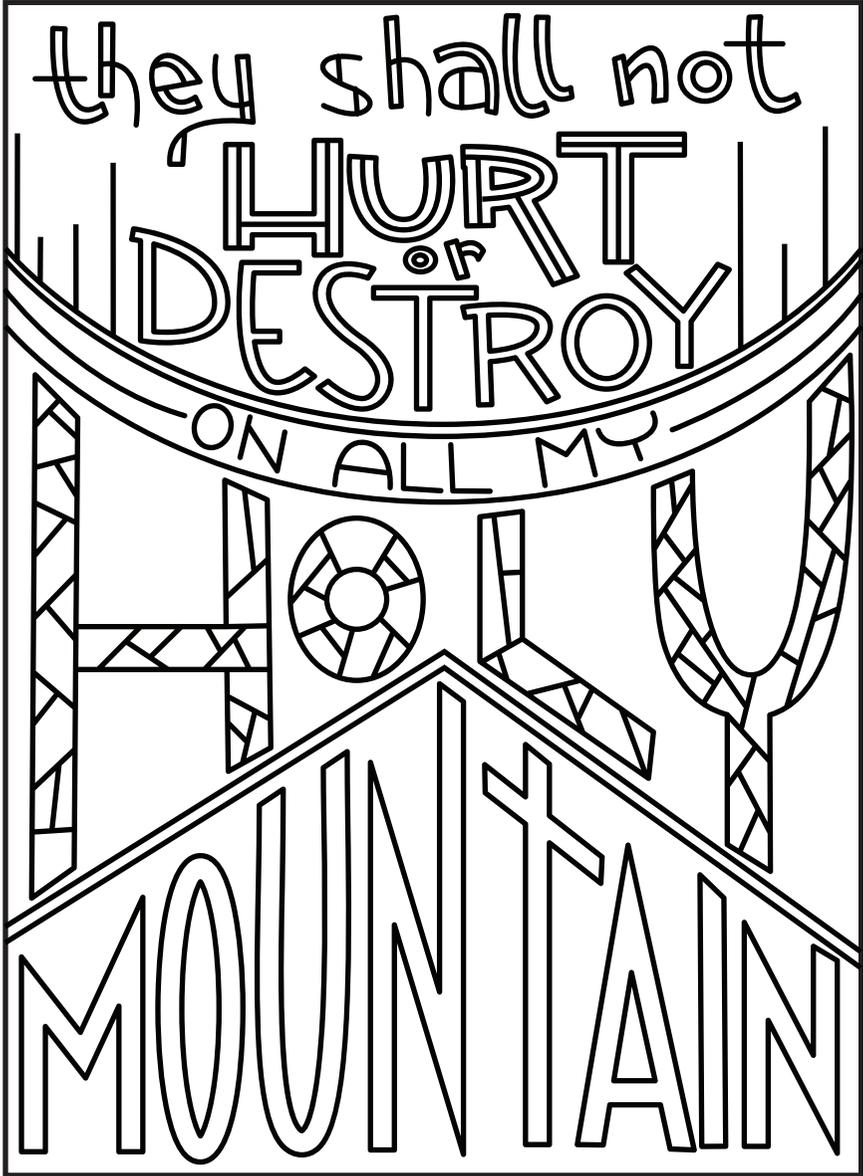
At her core, Dr. Lettsome is a preacher and teacher. Her preaching distinctions include the Distinguished Preachers Series at Riverside Church, NY, the George A. Crawley Women in Ministry Preacher at the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, a conference preacher for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, the Festival of Homiletics, and Working Preacher's The Craft of Preaching. She is a lecturer for seminary classes, conferences, and denominational meetings. Her presentations combine scholarly depth with an eye toward practical application and are communicated clearly, simply, and understandably. She is also a published author with books and articles written in the fields of homiletics, biblical studies, and womanist biblical interpretation and theology.

Dr. Lettsome earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Yale University and a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and is the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary (2005).

Dr. Lettsome is blessed to share her life with her husband, Rev. Lydell C. Lettsome, M.D., and their 2 children, Tiffany (aka Simone) and Luke (the Amazing).

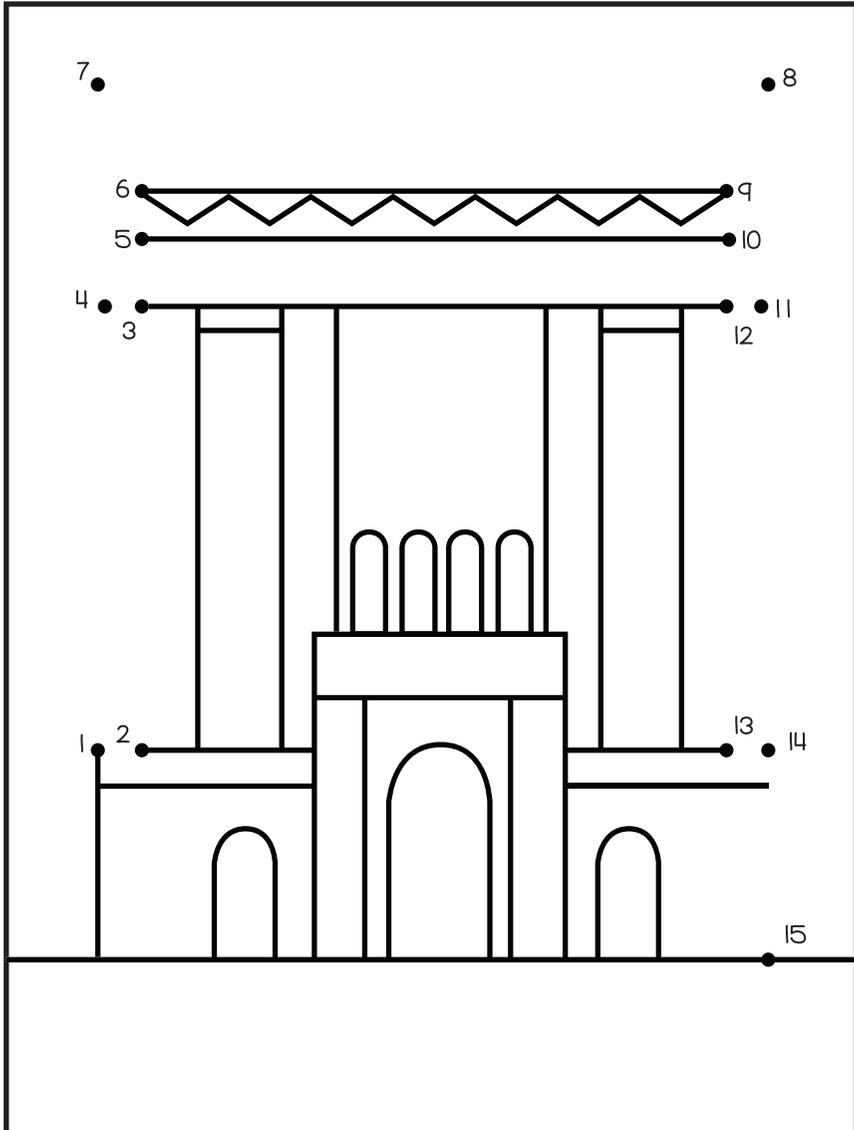


"The Lord God is
my strength and my might;
God has become my salvation."
- Isaiah 12:2



CONNECT the DOTS

The temple was one of the main places people went to worship God in Jesus' day. Connect the dots to form the temple. Inside it, write or draw some things you do at church.



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. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please pick up the Life of the Community newsletter located in the back of the pew or outside the Welcome Center. Visit trcnyc.org/Events for more information and to download a copy.

PARKING - 11/17/2019

Parking is available in the garage below the building. Present this bulletin to the attendant before 6:00 p.m. for a reduced rate of \$5.00.

CONNECT WITH US.

Rev. Michael Livingston
Interim Senior Minister
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Pastoral and Program Staff

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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



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