

# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 16, 2021  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# WELCOME TO THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

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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:

“Is there something that you need to start or start again? Is it time to take a step in that direction?”

-Rev. Raquel Lettsome

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Riverside Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Eastertide, a period of 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ until Pentecost. The liturgical color of Eastertide is white, which symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death, as signified by the paraments and clergy stoles.

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## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Variations on 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name'

*Albert Gerkin*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Chorale Prelude on 'Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem' (St. Fulbert) James Biery  
Ride On, King Jesus Robert Greenlee

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Amanda Meisenheimer

One: In Christ, the God of heaven has made a home on earth.

**All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

One: Highest of all creation, Christ lives among the least.

**All: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

One: Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.

**All: Come now, all who seek, and be warmed by the fire of love.**

### INVOCATION

#### OPENING HYMN 416

**Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

*Westminster Abbey*

**Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of the Lord and precious,  
Binding all the church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever,  
And our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call You,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
With Your wonted lovingkindness  
Hear Your people as they pray,  
And Your fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls always.**

**Here bestow on all Your servants  
What they ask of You to gain,  
What they gain from You forever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in Your glory  
Evermore with You to reign.**

**Laud and honor to the Father,  
Laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit,  
Ever three and ever one;  
One in might and one in glory  
While unending ages run.**

### *LISTENING*

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

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Lord have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

#### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Christine Rojas

Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26

*(pages 3 & 4 in the Old Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### **ANTHEM**

**Run to the Garden!**

*Brad Nix*

Run, run, run... run to the garden, hear the music in the air. Come, come, come... come to the garden, there is glory everywhere. At the breaking of the day, an angel rolled the stone away. Death no longer has a say, run to the garden of life! Run to the garden! Come and see the garden, see the roses bloom. See the snow bright angel, guard the empty tomb. Christ is alive, lift voices to the sky. Bring an alleluia, praise the Lord of life. Run, run, run... run to the garden, hear the music in the air. Come, come, come... come to the garden, there is glory everywhere. Christ the Lord is risen, run to the garden of life!

*The Rising Voices Choir  
Matthew Hommez, Director  
Yuliya Basis, Pianist*

#### **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome

Start Again

## 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

Amanda Meisenheimer

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Dr. Colleen Birchett

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name

*arr. Brazeal W. Dennard*

Hush, Hush, somebody's callin' my name. Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do? I'm so glad that trouble don't last always. I'm so glad I got my religion in time. Soon one mornin' death come creepin' in my room.

*Kendra Berentsen, soprano*

*Mary Jo Page, alto*

*Erik Rasmussen, tenor*

*Russell Saint John, bass*

### THE DOXOLOGY

**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. Livingston

*Today we celebrate the work of our Latino Ministry, which brings political, cultural and spiritual issues of our Latino/a members and neighbors before our Riverside congregation.*

**CLOSING HYMN 426**

**Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak**

Canonbury

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thine erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
The wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things Thou dost impart;  
And wing my words, that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

*SENDING*

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

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

Alleluia, from 'Five Liturgical Inventions

Victor Togni

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Christine Rojas & Dr. Colleen Birchett*

Liturgical Resources for Today:

*<sup>1</sup>From The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition by Faith Alive Christian Resources*



**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](http://www.rslministries.com)). Dr. Lettsome birthed 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).

## **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

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder, add us to your “safe sender list,” or visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/Email\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/Email) to sign up. We want to make sure that you know all the latest news and events at The Riverside Church!

## **LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

For announcements of programs and events at The Riverside Church, please visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/Events\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/Events) for more information and to download a copy.

## **WORSHIP ONLINE & ALL WEEK LONG**

If you need more Riverside worship throughout the week, visit [\*\*trcnyc.org/online\*\*](http://trcnyc.org/online) to watch the Sunday morning Livestream, videos of the sermon and the choirs, and more. Be sure to watch The Word Made Fresh, our weekly video Bible Study, and catch up on Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast.

# CONNECT WITH US.

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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](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

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



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