



The Riverside Church

in the City of New York

For such a time as *this*

JANUARY 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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:

“In his book, *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything*, Brian McLaren uses the metaphor “dream of God for creation” as a way of rendering “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” without the hierarchal connotations of kingdom language. For McLaren, “dream” equals God’s highest hope for creation, which McLaren asserts is “freedom and creativity, kindness and justice, generosity and peace, diversity and harmony.”

Conversely, “nightmare of God” can be used as a metaphor for sin and evil

-(McLaren, 141).

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 Epiphany, as signified by green paraments and clergy stoles, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, hope, and eternal life.



GATHERING

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

CARILLON

Fanfare on "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Robert Hebble

Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN

Choral

Joseph Jongen

Christopher Creaghan, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Livingston

One: Light of the world, bring us new life!

All: We choose to be people of life and blessings.

One: As we embrace the kindness of others

All: Strengthen our hearts to be generous in love.

One: Give us hope and lead us to reconciliation.

All: Teach us to live together as family while we worship in Your name.

OPENING HYMN 487

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes domini

When morning gilds the skies,

My heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer

To Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?

A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss?

My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Meghann Vaughn, mezzo-soprano

INVOCATION

LISTENING

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Kara Dago-Clark

Exodus 1:15-21

(page 49 in the Old Testament)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome

Dream Deliverers

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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Annie Meredith

OFFERTORY SOLO

A Prayer of Saint Francis

Harry Banks

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace, Where there is hatred, let us sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is discord, union. Where there is doubt, faith. Lord, where there is despair let us sow hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness let us sow joy. Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace

Charles Samuel Brown, bass-baritone

Matt King, pianist

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

Minister Wingate

Today, we celebrate the work of Lift Every Voice and Vote, which educates our Congregation and the Community about the importance of the Census and the vote, and advocates for those who are underrepresented and underserved.

CLOSING HYMN 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

O day of radiant gladness,

O day of joy and light,

O balm of care and sadness,

Most beautiful, most bright;

This day the high and lowly,

Through ages joined in tune,

Sing, "Holy, holy, holy,"

To the great God Triune.

This day at the creation,
The light first had its birth;
This day for our salvation
Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our Lord victorious
The Spirit sent from heaven,
And thus this day most glorious
A triple light was given.

This day, God's people meeting,
His Holy Scripture hear;
His living presence greeting,
Through Bread and Wine made near.
We journey on, believing,
Renewed with heavenly might,
From grace more grace receiving
On this blest day of light.

That light our hope sustaining,
We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining,
Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to thee our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

Rev. Livingston

POSTLUDE

Processional

William Mathias

Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Kara Dago-Clark & Annie Meredith



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 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).

Featured on the cover left to right:

Kamala Harris United States senator from California, and the first African American, the first Asian American, and the third female vice presidential running mate on a major party ticket.

Debra White Plume Championed the rights of the Oglala Lakota in South Dakota and led protests at Wounded Knee and oil pipeline sites. “I’m Lakota, I’m a woman, and water is the domain of the women in our nation,”

Dr. Jill Biden Second lady from 2009 to 2017. Married to Joe Biden, the U.S. president-elect, who is set to be inaugurated on January 20, 2021, at which time she will become first lady.

Lucille and Ruby Bridges In 1960 Ruby and her mother Lucille braved a gauntlet of threats and racist slurs to escort Ruby to a formerly all-white school in New Orleans in what became a symbol of opposition to segregation.

Monica Roberts Transgender rights advocate, founding editor of TransGriot and cofounder of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. The first to provide nationwide coverage of homicides against trans women of color, combing news reports to find misgendered murder victims.

Anne Frank German-Dutch diarist of Jewish origin, she gained fame posthumously with the publication of *The Diary of a Young Girl*, in which she documents her life in hiding from 1942 to 1944, during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II.

Deidre Davis Butler A wheelchair user herself, Deidre helped draft the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and held government posts championing people with disabilities, especially those of color.

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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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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