

The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



MAY 16, 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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:

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

-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 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.



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 WORSHIP¹

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

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

Liturgical Resources for Today:

¹From 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). 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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For full staff directory visit trcnyc.org/directory



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