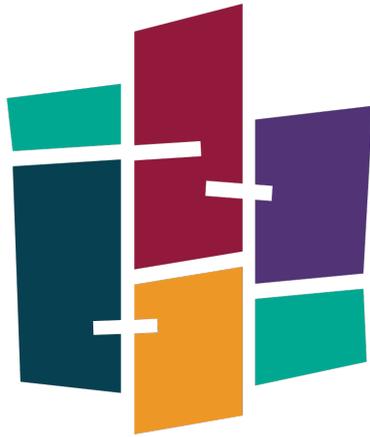


# The Riverside Church

in the City of New York



**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

JANUARY 30, 2022  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

# 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:

If we were to use grammar as an analogy for people, I would assert that most of us think of ourselves primarily as verbs-what we do OR nouns-who we are. I invite us to think of ourselves as conjunctions, the part of speech that has the power to connect (e.g. “and”) and divide (e.g. “but”) as we ask ourselves: Conjunction-junction, what’s my function?

-Rev. Raquel Lettsome, PhD

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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 Epiphany, as signified by white paraments and clergy stoles, symbolizing joy in the light of Christ’s birth.

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### Whats happening at Riverside?

Learn about the events and activities of the Life of Our Community by opening your camera and scanning the code below.



### Give by your phone

Make an offering using your smartphone by opening your camera and scanning the code below.

Or text TRCNYCGIVE to  
833.833.4035.



Following industry standard, Riverside has secured rapid onsite COVID testing services for the health and safety of performers singing together, allowing us to permit unmasked singing. All performers will remain masked at all other times, but will unmask for anthems and singing in the chancel.



## GATHERING

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

### CARILLON

Chorale Prelude on "All My Hope on God is Founded"

*John Knox*

*Charles Semowich, carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Andante Sostenuto, from Symphonie VIII

*Charles Marie-Widor*

*Christopher Creaghan, organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Michael Livingston

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister Charlene Wingate

One: Faithful God, You are the source of our life in Jesus Christ.

**All: We are grateful for Your grace and loving care.**

One: You have called us to be compassionate as we pursue justice.

**All: Strengthen our will with the wisdom of Your ways.**

One: Shepherd us through our divisions so we may find balance.

**All: Unite us in our presence and purpose. United, let us worship!**

### INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN 426

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

*Canonbury*

*Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing.*

## LISTENING

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Livingston

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

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## ANTHEM

### The Road Home

*Stephen Paulus*

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost so long ago? All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from far away. There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call, with the love in your heart as the only song; there is no such beauty as where you belong; Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

*Jasmine Ismail, soprano*

## EPISTLE LESSON

Min. Wingate

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

*(pages 165 & 166 in the New Testament)*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 384

### O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

*St. Margaret*

*Please meditate silently on the hymn and refrain from singing.*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Desirée Baxter

Luke 4:21-30

*(pages 61 & 62 in the New Testament)*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Raquel S. Lettsome

Conjunction-Junction: What's your function?

### 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 in heaven,**

**Hallowed be Your name.**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial, deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, 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

Carolyn Bland

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**Let Us Love in Deed and Truth**

*Larry King*

If you and I have the world's goods, and see our neighbors in need, yet we close our hearts against them, how does God's love abide in us? Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth. We have confidence before our God, and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we keep her commandments and do what pleases her. And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in his son Jesus Christ, and love one another.

## 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

Min. 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 361

### How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

*Please meditate silently on the hymn, and refrain from singing*

## SENDING

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

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Raquel Lettsome

## POSTLUDE

Fanfares, from Suite No. 1

Calvin Hampton

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*Special thanks to our congregational leaders: Desirée Baxter & Carolyn Bland*

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**The Rev. Raquel S. Lettsome, Ph.D.** is the Founder & President of RSL Ministries ([www.rslministries.com](http://www.rslministries.com)), a 501(c)3 organization, where she works with faith leaders and lay people to interpret Scripture more effectively for preaching, teaching, and living. Affectionately known as “Rev. Raquel,” the Reverend Raquel S. Lettsome, Ph.D. is committed to excellence and loves to help people move forward in their lives and ministries. Her ministry

flows from a faith commitment that values scholarship, integrity, and authenticity. With more than two decades of congregational ministry experience and extensive biblical and theological training, Dr. Lettsome knows how to integrate the highest levels of academic biblical scholarship, life giving ministry practices, and the discernment of the Holy Spirit to equip and empower believers.

Dr. Lettsome is currently the Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the New Testament at Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO) and has been an invited lecturer and instructor for classes at Princeton Theological, Payne Theological, United Lutheran seminaries as well as national conferences, and denominational meetings. She is also a published author in the fields of homiletics, biblical studies, womanist biblical interpretation and theology, and Christian spirituality. Her latest publication, *Breakthrough You! 30 Daily Devotions to Move You Forward*, was a #1 New Release in Religion & Spirituality Short Reads on Amazon.com.

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

She shares her life with her husband, the Rev. Lydell C. Lettsome, M.D., and their 2 children, Tiffany and Luke. She and her family are active members of the Rockland Orange Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Incorporated.

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

## **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 visit [trcnyc.org/Events](http://trcnyc.org/Events) for more information and to download a copy.

## **JOIN OUR WEEKLY SERMON TALKBACK**

Go deeper with the sermons from The Riverside Church every Sunday after worship for a sermon talkback as part of Virtual Coffee Hour. Visit [trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour](http://trcnyc.org/VirtualCoffeeHour) to join us online or go to 311 MLK to join us in person. If you are unable to join the live conversation you can listen to After the Amen, our weekly sermon talkback podcast, as Riverside clergy and congregants talk with Sunday's preacher about how their sermon resonates in our lives and in our world. Visit [trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen](http://trcnyc.org/AfterTheAmen) to listen now.

## **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Are you receiving our weekly emails? Check your junk folder and add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) 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!

## **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you, wherever you go. Text TRCNYC to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://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**

Fall and Winter 2021 Sunday afternoon carillon recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 p.m. and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, immediately north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals](http://trcnyc.org/CarillonRecitals) for the complete schedule.

# CONNECT WITH US.

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**Rev. Michael Livingston**  
Interim Senior Minister  
mlivingston@trcnyc.org

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## Pastoral and Program Staff

**Meighan Corbett**  
Director of Stewardship & Development  
mcorbett@trcnyc.org

**Christopher Creaghan**  
Interim Director of Music & Organist  
ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper**  
Minister of Older Adults  
lharper@trcnyc.org

**Rich Glassey**  
Executive Director of Operations  
rglassey@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Jim Keat**  
Digital Minister  
jkeat@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Bruce Lamb**  
Minister of Faith Formation  
blamb@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer**  
Minister of Children & Families  
mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

**Shanniel Morrison**  
Property Manager  
smorrison@trcnyc.org

**Rev. Dr. Debra Northern**  
Minister of Parish Care  
dnorthern@trcnyc.org

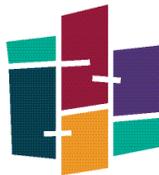
**Min. Richard X III**  
Assistant Minister of Faith Formation  
rx@trcnyc.org

**Brian Simpson**  
Director Of Communications & Strategy  
bsimpson@trcnyc.org

## 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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