

# RAQUEL ST. CLAIR LETTSOME

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## EDUCATION

<b>Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament Studies</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	2005
<b>Master of Divinity</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1995
<b>Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies</b>   <i>Yale University</i> (New Haven, CT)	1992

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

<b>Distinguished Visiting Professor of the New Testament &amp; Womanist Hermeneutics</b>   <i>Eden Theological Seminary</i> (St. Louis, MO)	2022-23
<b>Scholar in Residence</b>   <i>Department of Research and Scholarship</i> (African Methodist Episcopal Church)	2022-Present
<b>Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the New Testament</b>   <i>Eden Theological Seminary</i> (St. Louis, MO)	2020-22
<b>Adjunct Instructor</b>   <i>United Lutheran Seminary</i> (Philadelphia, PA)	Summer 2021
<b>Adjunct Instructor</b>   <i>Payne Theological Seminary</i> (Wilberforce, OH)	Fall 2015-2017
<b>Adjunct Instructor</b>   <i>Payne Theological and United Lutheran Seminaries</i>	Summer 2009, 2010

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Mark: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, exp. 2024.

*Breakthrough You: 30 Daily Devotions to Move You Forward*. Middletown, NY: Raquel S. Lettsome LLC, 2020.

*Call and Consequences: A Womanist Reading of Mark's Gospel*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008.

*The African Presence in the Bible: Gospel Sermons Rooted in History*. Coauthor William D. Watley. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2000.

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Mary's Slave Song: The Tensions and Turnarounds of Faithfully Reading Doule in the Magnificat." In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (2021).

"So, What Does the Bible Say About This...? Context, Questions, and Correspondence as a Means of Refracting a Cultural Lens for African American Biblical Interpretation." In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 65 (3): 276-284 (2011).

### Essays in Edited Volumes

"Womanist Biblical Interpretation (Updated)" in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, exp. 2024.

"Matthew 16:21-28 – Proper 17 (Sunday between August 28-September 3)" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World*. Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

"Matthew 18:15-20 – Proper 18 (Sunday between September 4-September 10)" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World*. Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

"Matthew 18:21-35 – Proper 19 (Sunday between September 11-September 17)" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World*. Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

"John 1:43-51 Pastoral Perspective." In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

"John 2:1-12 Pastoral Perspective." In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

“John 2:13-25 Pastoral Perspective.” In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

“Mark.” Pages 127-172 in *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament*. Edited by Margaret Aymer, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, and David A. Sanchez. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2014.

“Preaching from the Overflow.” Pages 115-130 in *More Power in the Pulpit: How America’s Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Edited by Cleophus J. LaRue. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.

“Womanist Criticism.” In *New Interpreter’s Bible Handbook on Preaching*. Edited by Paul Wilson, Jana Childers, Cleophus J. LaRue, and John Rottman. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation.” Pages 54-62 in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2007.

### Web-Based Publications

“Lectionary Commentary: Christmas.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Compact Unit: Anti-Addiction Sunday.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Lectionary Commentary: Usher’s Day.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Lectionary Commentary: Palm Sunday.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Lectionary Commentary: Advent/World AIDS Day.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

### Other Publications

“The Shepherd’s Staff: The Role of the Assistant Pastor.” In *Doing Church, Vol. 2*. New Seasons Press, 2010.

“Interpreting Scripture for the Purpose of Writing a Sermon.” In *The African American Pulpit*. Summer 2004.

“Prayerful Exegesis,” In *The African American Pulpit*. Summer 2002.

### HONORS & AWARDS

<b>Martin Luther King, Jr, Collegium of Scholars</b>   <i>Morehouse College</i>	2022
<b>City of Newark Citation for Outstanding Contributions to the City</b>	2004
<b>Dissertation Fellowship</b>   <i>Fund for Theological Education</i>	1999–2000
<b>President’s Doctoral Fellowship</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995–1999
<b>New Testament Fellowship</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995
<b>Honors Thesis in Bible</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995
<b>Expository Preaching Prize</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995
<b>William Fries, III Scholarship</b>   <i>Yale University</i>	1988–1992
<b>National Merit Scholar: National Negro Achievement Scholarship</b>	1988

### INVITED LECTURER/PREACHER

“Preaching Hope to a Weary World,” Festival of Homiletics, Minneapolis, MN 2023.

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Preaching with Power Conference, United Lutheran Theological Seminary, Phil., PA 2023.

“Call and Consequences,” Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO 2022.

“Remember, You’re a Sheep,” Lilly Roundtable Capstone Conference, Princeton, NJ 2022.

“Less Stress Preaching and Prep” Festival of Homiletics, Virtual 2020.

“The Year of Restoration (Joel 2:25),” 1st Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA 2018.

“Preaching Sermon Series,” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2018.

“A New Thing (Isaiah 43:8-12),” 1st Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA 2017.

“Take a S.E.A.T: 4 Practical Steps for Weekly Sermon Prep,” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2017.

“Prophetic Preaching: Are You Prepared to Die?” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2017.

“Remember, You’re a Sheep,” Medical Humanities Retreat, Baylor University, Waco, TX 2017.

“What Does the Lord Require? Exploring the Tensions of Doing Ministry During Changing Times (Micah 6),” Woman in Ministry Conference, Atlanta, GA 2016.

“Introduction to the Gospel of Mark: Follow Me?” Baylor University Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX, November 2015.

“Preparing the Preacher,” “Prophetic Preaching,” and “Responses to Prophetic Preaching,” Herbst Alumni/ae Conference, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, April 2015.

“The Sovereignty of God: Do You Really Believe God is in Charge?” 4th Annual Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference at United Theological Seminary, Columbus, OH, May 2014.

“A Theological Approach to Preaching the Whole Counsel of God. Acts 20:17-38,” 3rd Annual Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference at United Theological Seminary, Columbus, OH, May 2013.

“Making the Connect: Exegesis of the Text and Context for Effective Communication,” National Bible Conference, California State Baptist Convention, Fairfield, CA, March 2011.

“African American Women and Preaching,” at Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynceton, PA, March 2009.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation and Preaching,” at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, October 2008.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation,” at Drew School of Theology, Madison, NJ, October 2007.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Digital)

<b>Weekly Bible Study</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021-Present
<b>Exegesis Lab: Revelation</b>   <i>RSL Ministries (co-host Brian K. Blount)</i>	2022
<b>Exegesis Lab: Gospel Parallels</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2022
<b>Exegesis Lab: Luke 1:5-25</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021
<b>Exegesis Lab: Narrative</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021
<b>Build a Better Bible Study</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2022-Present
<b>Sundays Keep Coming</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021-Present
<b>Greek for Preachers and Teachers</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2020
<b>Less Stress Sermon Prep</b>   <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2019-Present
<b>Call and Consequences: A Womanist View of Suffering and Discipleship</b>   <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i>	Fall 2010
<b>Abiding in the Vine: An Interpretation of John 15</b>   <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i>	Spring 2010
<b>What Does it Mean to Follow Jesus?: An Intro to the Gospel of Mark</b>   <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i>	Fall 2009

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE (In Person)

<b>The African Presence in the Bible</b>   <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i> (Brooklyn, NY)	Spring 2010
<b>Teacher Training Seminar for Christian Educators</b>   <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i> (Brooklyn, NY)	Fall 2009
<b>Introduction to the New Testament</b>   <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Spring 2001, 2003
<b>Introduction to Christian Theology</b>   <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Spring 2000, 2003
<b>The Gospel of Mark</b>   <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Spring 2002
<b>Biblical Interpretation</b>   <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Fall 2002
<b>The Historical Witness of the Christian Church</b>   <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Fall 2001
<b>Introduction to the Old Testament</b>   <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Fall 2000
<b>Teaching Assistant – The Gospel of Mark</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1999-2000
<b>Teaching Assistant – Introduction to the New Testament</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1996-1997
<b>Teaching Assistant – New Testament Greek</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1994-1995
<b>Writing Center Tutor</b>   <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1993-1994

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE

<b>Member – Steering Committee, Womanist Biblical Interpretation Unit</b>   <i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>	2020–Present
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## CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

<b>Associate Minister</b>   <i>Mount Zion AME Church</i> (Dover, DE)	2022–Present
<b>Associate Minister</b>   <i>Bethel Missionary Baptist Church</i> (Wappinger Falls, NY)	2021–2022
<b>Church Consultant</b>   <i>South Euclid United Church of Christ</i> (Cleveland, OH)	2021
<b>Associate Minister</b>   <i>Union AME Church</i> (Warwick, NY)	2013–2022
<b>Church Consultant</b>   <i>The Emmaus Community</i> (Chicago Heights, IL)	2013
<b>Church Consultant</b>   <i>Emmanuel Baptist Church</i> (Brooklyn, NY)	2009–2011
<b>Lead Minister, South Orange Location</b>   <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	2008–2012
<b>Director, St. James Christian Learning Center</b>   <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1999–2005
<b>Executive Minister</b>   <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1998–2012
<b>Minister to Women</b>   <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1995–1998
<b>Associate Minister</b>   <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1994–1995

## DIGITAL MINISTRY

<b>Founder &amp; President</b> (Weekly Bible Study, Online Courses, Webinars)   <i>RSL Ministries</i> (501c3)	2021–Present
<b>Founder &amp; CEO</b> (Professional Development/Coaching)   <i>Raquel S. Lettsome LLC</i>	2019–Present

## DENOMINATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

<b>Board of Examiners</b>   <i>New Jersey Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church</i>	2009–2010
<b>Bible Study Instructor – Annual Ministers’ Retreat</b>   <i>First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church</i>	1995–2003

## PREACHING DISTINCTIONS

<b>Conference Preacher</b>   <i>African American Preaching Conference, Truett Theological Seminary</i>	2021
<b>Congress of Christian Education</b>   <i>6<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Macon, GA)	2021
<b>Conference Preacher</b>   <i>Festival of Homiletics</i> (Virtual)	2020
<b>Conference Preacher</b>   <i>17<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference</i> (Arlington, VA)	2020
<b>Conference Preacher</b>   <i>Festival of Homiletics</i> (San Antonio, TX)	2017
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Preacher</b>   <i>Yale University</i> (New Haven, CT)	2017
<b>Chapel Preacher</b>   <i>Duke University</i> (Durham, NC)	2016
<b>Preacher-in-Residence</b>   <i>Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching – Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	2016
<b>Conference Preacher</b>   <i>9<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference</i> (Chicago, IL)	2012
<b>George A. Crawley Women in Ministry Preacher</b>   <i>Hampton University Ministers’ Conference</i> (Hampton, VA)	2011
<b>Conference Preacher</b>   <i>National Bible Conference – California State Baptist Convention</i> (Fairfield, CA)	2011
<b>Distinguished Preacher</b>   <i>Distinguished Preacher Series – Riverside Church</i> (New York City, NY)	2010
<b>Chapel Preacher</b>   <i>Union Presbyterian School of Christian Education</i> (Richmond, VA)	2008
<b>Chapel Preacher</b>   <i>Drew School of Theology</i> (Madison, NJ)	2007

## SUPERVISED MINISTRY / FIELD EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

Princeton Theological Seminary	1998–2012
New Brunswick Theological Seminary	1998–2012
Drew Theological Seminary	1998–2012
Union Theological Seminary	1998–2012

## ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature  
American Academy of Religion

## ADVISORY BOARDS

Womanist Readings in Scripture Publications Series, Fortress/Lexington Academic Press	2018–2022
The African American Lectionary	2012–2013
The African American Pulpit	2001–2004

## TEACHING AREAS

Introduction to the New Testament  
Greek Grammar  
New Testament Exegesis

Gospel of Mark  
Synoptics  
Pauline Epistles  
Womanist/Feminist Biblical Interpretation  
Introduction to Preaching  
Biblical Interpretation for Preaching

#### LANGUAGES

*Ancient:* Greek (Koine), Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic

*Modern:* Spanish, French, German

#### REFERENCES

##### PROFESSIONAL

Brian K. Blount

President, Professor of New Testament in the Walter W. Moore & Charles E.S. Kraemer Presidential Chairs and the former Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary

Union Presbyterian Seminary

3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227

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Beverly Roberts Gaventa

Helen H. P. Manson Professor of New Testament Interpretation Emerita

Princeton Theological Seminary

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##### ECCLESIAL

Rev. William D. Watley, Ph.D.

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##### COLLEGIAL

Rev. Alise D. Barrymore, D. Min.

Senior Pastor, The Emmaus Community

20820 Western Ave, Olympia Fields, IL 60461

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