

# SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 2, 2007 9:00 AM • 11:15 AM

FAMILIAR HYMNS, SONGS, AND SPIRITUALS

Kevin Slatten-Poss

~ GATHERING~

INTROIT *How Excellent Is Your Name* Brenda Moore

Jerriese Johnson East Village Gospel Choir

HYMN\* *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MORNING PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER Brad Motta

Ever-loving God, hallowed be your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the reign, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

~ REFLECTING ~

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 2.1-5*

~Worshippers May Be Seated~

ADVENT EVENT *The People of the City are Looking For the Light*

**(Chorus)**

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dew- drops of mercy shine bright.  
Shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

**Staged by Bil Wright**

Cheryl Cochran, Becket Logan, Joel Peterson, Charles Brown, Shirley Blaise,  
Lutin Tanner, Ayo Abinusawa, Ty Ty Abinusawa, Lisa Fenger, Shelagh Krueger,  
Aaliah Bell, Alisia Green, Roy Fialkow, Bil Wright  
Choreography: Roy Fialkow

Text: Bil Wright  
Original Music: **ON THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY**  
Lyrics: Bil Wright  
Music: Charles Brown

**OH HOLY NIGHT (In A Concrete City of Dancing light)**  
Lyrics: Bil Wright  
Music: Joseph-Vernon Banks  
The Jerriese Johnson East Village Gospel Choir  
under the direction of John Del Cueto

~ RESPONDING ~

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Every Valley* John Ness Beck

COMMUNION *Call To Advent* J.B. Williams

DOXOLOGY HYMN/DEDICATION PRAYER\*

From all that dwell below the skies / Let faith and hope with love arise.

Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung / Through every land, by every tongue.

BENEDICTION\*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* *Luthin*

POSTLUDE

\*Indicates Please Stand If You Are Able.

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## WELCOME TO MIDDLE CHURCH

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We are glad you are here today. If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to return often and make Middle Church a home for you, your family, and friends. Complete the card from the pew in front of you or sign the guest book in the narthex to receive our newsletter or listserv. For more information visit [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org).

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## MIDDLE CHURCH CHOIR

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Gail Blache-Gill, Charles Brown, Matthew Deming, Beth Hatton, Ann Hazen, Robert Hughes, Joslyn King, Eric Lamp, Vaughn Lindquist, Tami Petty, Mark Rehnstrom, Kristin Sampson, Junko Watanabe Jonathan Dudley, Director

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## COURTESY AND SAFETY IN THE SANCTUARY

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Please silence your cell phone and leave food or drink outside. Please help us comply with fire safety codes: fold strollers or carts and store them carefully under a pew. Thanks for your cooperation. For the additional comfort of parents with restless young ones, the worship celebration can also be heard real time in our social hall.

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## SUNDAY CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

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|          |                                              |                    |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 9:00 AM  | Wee Care (under 4)                           | Downstairs Nursery |
| 10:00 AM | Living the Word                              | Church Parlor      |
|          | Lectionary Bible Study By Charlie Haynes     | Balcony A          |
|          | Church School                                | 2nd Floor          |
|          | Middle Link Brunch                           | Social Hall        |
|          | New Member Gathering                         | Jacqui's Office    |
|          | Wee Care (under 4)                           | Downstairs Nursery |
| 12:30 PM | Audio Copies of Celebration                  | Media Room         |
|          | Middle Link Brunch                           | Social Hall        |
|          | Gallery Opening                              | Social Hall        |
| 1:00 PM  | Stephen Ministry Drop-In                     | Second Floor       |
|          | The Bible for Dummies, by Dr. Charlie Haynes | Balcony A          |
|          | Brunch Workshop, Bring the Light Home        | 3rd Floor          |
|          | Peace Talks                                  | Church Parlor      |

**TODAY**  
**PEACETALKS/JUSTICE**  
**WORKS MEETING THIS SUNDAY**

**NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS**

If you say Middle Church is your church, then it is. And if you have been wondering when you can officially become a Middle member, now is the time. For additional information, please contact Jacqui Lewis at 212.477.0666 or [jlewis@middlechurch.org](mailto:jlewis@middlechurch.org)

**NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS IN 2007**

December 2, 9, 16, 23 at 10:00 AM

Join the congregation on December 23 at 11:15 AM celebration

**VOLUNTEER AT THE CELEBRATE LIFE MEAL**

We need your hands and your hearts as we welcome those persons living with HIV/AIDS into our community every Monday. You can help with set-up, serving, registration, clean-up, or just making our guests feel welcome. Sign-up sheet is on the community table in the Social Hall for those interested.

**MIDDLE PRAYS**

**IS LOOKING FOR PRAYER VOLUNTEERS**

If you are interested, please contact Malia Blake a [myprayercircle@yahoo.com](mailto:myprayercircle@yahoo.com)

**THE CLOTHING CLOSET AND FOOD PANTRY**

We will be open on Monday evenings from 4pm-6pm and are in need of volunteers. If interested please put your information on the sign-up sheet on the community table in the Social Hall. Our Food Pantry which feeds 65 people each week can also use volunteers to distribute food each Wednesday morning at 8:00 am. If you are interested, please email Melinda at [mcruz@middlechurch.org](mailto:mcruz@middlechurch.org)

Donations are needed for the Middle Church clothing closet. All gently used items and sizes are accepted, but we especially need men's clothing of all sizes, larger women's sizes, work attire, new packages of under garments and socks and winter coats. All items should be clean, unsoiled, and folded neatly. Donations can be dropped at the main office daily.

**MIDDLECHURCH COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Come join us as we begin a community children's chorus. Learn singing technique, movement through music, music reading and writing, multicultural music and so much more for free! Training is held Saturdays from 3:30pm-5:30pm

**SOULCARE**

A Midweek Respite for your Spirit Wednesday's 7:00pm

**RECRUITING FRIENDLY, WARM AND WELCOMING PEOPLE  
 GREETERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS**

If you are interested in greeting, e-mail Brad Mottabmotta@middlechurch.org or Melinda Cruz @mcruz@middlechurch.org. Compassion, Training, Hugs

**PAINTING ON CANVAS**

By Stephanie Mayr Hofer

Opening December 2 at 12:30 PM

Sometimes you really CAN put new wine in an old wineskin...

Peace talks, a lay-led ministry that focuses on structured conversation and education toward peace is being revived. Peacetalks/Justiceworks will have an inaugural planning meeting **THIS Sunday, December 2 at 1:00p** in the Church Parlor. Bring ideas for not only conversation and education but **ACTION** toward peace, justice and reconciliation.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**MIDDLE CARES**

Drop In for Care - Need an ear? Have a problem you want some help with? Need advice, guidance or resources? Every First Sunday (starting today!) Stephen Ministry is sponsoring a "Drop-in Hour" where you can find comfort, prayer, guidance and a listening ear. In Heather's office - 3rd floor. 1-2 pm. No appt necessary.

Christmas Card Delivery Service - send a card to a Middle member you care about! Drop by the Middle Cares Table, 10 am on Sundays, and write a card to anyone who attends Middle. We will deliver the cards each Sunday during Advent - right to their pews! Donations of Christmas cards are also greatly appreciated!

Holiday Baskets - if you would like to help make holiday baskets to deliver to our elders and homebound members.

Visits and Communion to Homebound - on Third Sundays, Middle Cares will visit and deliver communion to our homebound and hospitalized members. If you know of someone who is interested in receiving this service please let Heather know.

For more information about any of our Caring ministries or to set up an appointment, please contact Heather Juby, [hjuby@middlechurch.org](mailto:hjuby@middlechurch.org), 917-574-7587.

**Toy Drive** – donate new, wrapped toys for the children of the Hudson Guild. Mark each toy with a note designating the gender and age of toy if applicable.

**Care Package for soldiers in Iraq** – If you are interested in donating items for this – speak to Heather after the service or email her: [hjuby@middlechurch.org](mailto:hjuby@middlechurch.org)

**Blue SoulCare** – the Holidays can be difficult when you've lost someone. Come join us for an evening of comfort and fellowship – **Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

**PICK UP YOUR 2008 OFFERING ENVELOPES**  
 LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY AND IN THE SOCIAL HALL

**Christmas Decorating**

**Saturday, December 15 11-1pm.**