

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 16, 2007 9:00 AM • 11:15 AM

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Kendall Thomas

~ GATHERING~

INTROIT

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Charles S. Brown

ADVENT EVENT

The Little Candle: Dancing in the Greens
Theresa Duhon/Gary Pozner and Cast

HYMN*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS /

Jacqui Lewis

MORNING PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Children Leave for Children's Worship

~ REFLECTING ~

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

arr. David Maddux

SERMON

Highway on 2nd Avenue

Brad Motta

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might be saved. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord Almighty God who was and is and is to come. Rejoice in heaven all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more. They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

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.

CLOSING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

*Indicates Please Stand If You Are Able.

WELCOME TO MIDDLE CHURCH

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.

CHURCH CHOIR

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

COURTESY AND SAFETY IN THE SANCTUARY

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.

SUNDAY CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

9:00 AM	Wee Care (under 4)	Downstairs Nursery
10:00 AM	Living the Word	Afterschool
	Lectionary Bible Study By Charlie Haynes	Balcony A
	Church School	2nd Floor
	Middle Link Brunch	Social Hall
	New Member Gathering	Church Parlor
	Wee Care (under 4)	Downstairs Nursery
	MiddleCares	Social Hall
11:15 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
	Children's Worship	2nd Floor
12:30 PM	Audio Copies of Celebration	Media Room
	Middle Link Brunch	Social Hall
	The Bible for Dummies, by Dr. Charlie Haynes	Balcony A
12:45 PM	Christmas in the neighborhood	
1:45 PM	Christmas Brunch	Social Hall
3:00 PM	A Funky Christmas, Manhattan Brass and the Middle Church Choir	Sanctuary

Next Sunday is a Special Holiday Party for Children, Youth and their Friends.

During the 11:15 celebration, children will gather in the performance space for a special gathering. Is Santa Coming to Town?

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

NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS IN 2007

December 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 at 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

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

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](mailto:Brad.Mottabmotta@middlechurch.org) or [Melinda Cruz @middlechurch.org](mailto:Melinda.Cruz@middlechurch.org). Compassion, Training, Hugs

PAINTING ON CANVAS

By Stephanie Mayr Hofer

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. Please contact Heather Juby, hjuby@middlechurch.org

VISITS AND COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND - THIS WEEKEND

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, 917-574-7587.

PICK UP YOUR 2008 OFFERING ENVELOPES

LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY
AND IN THE SOCIAL HALL

SOULCARE

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

JAZZY SOULCARE

New Horizons
Next Wednesday 7:00pm
