

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MARCH 3, 2019 • 9:30 & 11:45 AM • TRANSFIGURATION

~ GATHERING ~

PRELUDE++ Middle Church Band

INTROIT “Lord, Help Me to Hold Out” (James Cleveland)

HYMN*++ “The Rich Man’s House”

INVITATION TO WORSHIP* Psalm 95.1–5 Rochelle Doctor

The Lord is queen; let the peoples tremble!

She sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion; she is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is she!

Mighty Queen, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God; worship at her footstool. Holy is she!

~ REFLECTING ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS++ Bertram Johnson

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE LORD’S PRAYER/CONGREGATIONAL AMEN* Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

Ever-loving and holy 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/WELCOMING GUESTS++

ANTHEM “Changed” (Walter Hawkins)
Shari Gill, soloist

SCRIPTURE Exodus 34.29–35 Sandra Santana (9:30)
Marion Wise (11:45)

SERMON “Lawd, I Know I’ve Been Changed” Jacqui Lewis

~ RESPONDING ~

COMMUNION* The People of God
All are welcome to come forward to share the gluten-free bread and white grape juice.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Middle Church Women☒
To become a member of Middle Church, see the clergy/staff at the pulpit after worship.

OFFERTORY/OFFERING “Changed My Name” (Traditional Spiritual)
Place gift in bag • Donate at middlechurch.org/donate • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION PRAYER* Bertram Johnson
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.

HYMN* “Ella’s Song”

BENEDICTION* Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE Middle Church Band

Please join us for a congregational meeting immediately following worship.

*Indicates please stand if you are able

++ You may find a seat—an Usher may assist you—or take a bio break at this time.

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION •

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • John Del Cueto, Director — Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; Jeremy Price, Hammond organ; BAASSIK, bass; Bernice Brooks, drums.

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. If you want to join our movement, see staff after worship. Complete the pew card to receive our newsletter or weekly emails. Learn more at middlechurch.org. **Please silence your cell phone and leave food or drink outside. Please do not walk across the front of the sanctuary while worship is in progress. Thank you for your cooperation.**

FOR BEST T-COIL ACCESS TO THE HEARING LOOP, sit by the side, front, and back aisles.

By entering the Sanctuary, you grant Middle Collegiate Church unrestricted right to use and publish, transmit, or telecast photographs or likenesses that might be taken of you this day for use in communications related to the church. You agree that all such material will be the sole property of Middle Collegiate Church. If you are uncomfortable, you are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary balcony.

TODAY AT MIDDLE CHURCH

• **WEE CARE (INFANT–AGE 4)** — 9:15 AM–1:15 PM • *3rd Floor Nursery* — Childcare.

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **TRANSFIGURATION “Lawd, I Know I’ve Been Changed” Jacqui Lewis, preacher** • Exodus 34.29–35 • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • *Congregational meeting immediately following worship.* — *Worship*

• **JOIN THE MOVEMENT** — 10:30–10:45 AM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 10:30–11:35 AM • *Social Hall* — 9:30 worshippers and those arriving for 11:45 worship share coffee and conversation. — *Community*

• **KIDS IN THE MIDDLE (GRADES K–5)** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *3rd Floor Studio* — Explore the Bible with the arts—singing, acting, drawing—and brunch. — *Children & Youth Education*

• **BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT)** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *4th Floor Studio* — In March, explore scripture through the contributions of Women theologians. — *Adult Education*

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **TRANSFIGURATION “Lawd, I Know I’ve Been Changed” Jacqui Lewis, preacher** • Exodus 34.29–35 • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • *Congregational meeting immediately following worship.* — *Worship*

• **JOIN THE MOVEMENT** — 12:45–1:15 PM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 12:45–1:30 PM • *Social Hall* — Coffee and conversation.

• **FREEDOM SCHOOL: VILLAGE CHORUS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** — *Attend the Interfaith Play Date!*

• **INTERFAITH PLAY DATE** — 1:30–3:30 PM • *Check in at 3rd Floor Studio* — A multicultural, multiethnic gathering for young people to engage their peers from a variety of faith backgrounds and traditions. A no-cost play date for children in Pre-K through Grade 5 accompanied by their parents/guardians. Kosher/halal pizza and ice cream will be served. Join us for the interactive games, activities, and art. **Please RSVP to Marte Samuelstuen at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.** — *Children & Youth Education*

• **CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MURRAY BERENSON** — 2:00–3:30 PM • *Sanctuary*

VIDEOS AND PODCASTS — Worship music and sermon videos: [youtube.com/MiddleNYC](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleNYC). Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: [facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch). Middle Church Celebrations podcast: bit.ly/middlechurchcelebrations.

DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY— As of this printing, you have given \$347,955 and we have covenants and recurring donations for \$80,796 more toward our FY19 goal of \$725,000 – that’s AMAZING! We can only reach our goal with your sustained support. **Please consider making a donation in worship today. Visit www.middlechurch.org/donate to make a recurring or one-time gift!** — *In gratitude, Darren Johnston and Middle Consistory*

PRAYER CORNER *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*

Peace, love and prosperity all over the world, Sanity and humanity towards each other and ourselves, an end to struggling and suffering; Janice Bates, The Bates, Her sister; Elaine, Elaine’s daughter, Umi, Robin, Sierra, Mike, Keith, Darly, Abdulmalik, Achebe; Almestica family, Teresa Torres; Pete, Taina, Jose, Mariah Ramos, Ramos family and friends; Harold Butler; Phyllistine, Jorryn, Sandy Stone, Sierra Goodale, Mary Lou Driscoll, Anita Parker, Nathaniel Whiteside, Chip, Kade Schaeffer, Ydalia Diaz, Simon Clemente, Roseata Andrews, Middle Staff and Clergy, Homeless, Unemployed and Underemployed.

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sundays • 10:30–11:35 AM, 12:45–1:30 PM • Social Hall

We are seeking folks to volunteer to serve food during our two Community Hours. Every meal is crafted and served with love; it is our way to nourish the body and soul beyond the church walls! Join our Hospitality Team on Sundays to spread Revolutionary Love with delicious food and a contagious smile. **Please email Elise at etiralli@middlechurch.org if you are interested.**

THIS WEEK AT MIDDLE CHURCH

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events, including AA, NA, and Alanon.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

• **MOMENTUM MEALS** — *Social Hall* — Lunch 11:30 AM–1:00 PM / Dinner 5:30–6:30 PM • Free, nutritious meal for clients and the community. — *Get Help*

• **ACTING CLASS** — 6:00–7:30 PM • *3rd Floor Studio* —Work on scenes, monologues, dance, and music to build your own show. — *Arts*

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

• **MIDDLE MIXER: FAT TUESDAY POT LUCK** — 6:30–8:00 PM • *Social Hall* — Join your Middle family for a special evening of festivity and fun. Bring a dessert to share as we feast before Lent. — *Community*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 – NO PROGRAMMING

• **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP** — 7:00–8:00 PM • *Sanctuary* — Music from Dionne McClain-Freeney and the Jammers • Bertram Johnson, homily • Ashes. — *Worship*

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

• **CREATIVE WRITING** — 6:30–8:00 PM • *4th Floor Studio* — A supportive place to work on an idea you’ve always wanted to write. **THIS WEEK: Shakespeare.** — *Arts*

• **JERRIESE JOHNSON GOSPEL CHOIR** — 7:00–9:00 PM • *Community Room* — Weekly rehearsal. For more information, contact John at jdclcueto@middlechurch.org. — *Arts*

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

• **QUEER BLACK MEN IN THE MIDDLE** — 7:00–8:30 PM • *Social Hall* — Examine issues affecting queer black male lives and respond to these issues through a spiritual lens. Led by Rev. Bertram Johnson and Wesley Rowell. — *Small Group*

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 – NO PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

• **IN-THE-MIDDLE CHOIR REHEARSAL** — 8:45–9:15 AM • *Sanctuary* — Attend rehearsal and sing in worship TODAY. Contact tpetty@middlechurch.org. — *Arts*

• **WEE CARE (INFANT–AGE 4)** — 9:15 AM–1:15 PM • *3rd Floor Nursery* — Childcare.

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT “Ancestors Among Us” Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, preacher** • Deuteronomy 26.1–11 • In-the-Middle Choir • Middle Church Choir. — *Worship*

• **JOIN THE MOVEMENT** — 10:30–10:45 AM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 10:30–11:35 AM • *Social Hall* — 9:30 worshippers and those arriving for 11:45 worship share coffee and conversation. — *Community*

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• **YOUTH IN THE MIDDLE (GRADES 6–12)** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *3rd Floor Youth Room (306)* — This Month: Womyn’s Herstory. — *Youth Education*

• **BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT)** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *4th Floor Studio* — In March, explore scripture through the contributions of Women theologians. — *Adult Education*

• **IN-THE-MIDDLE CHOIR REHEARSAL** — 11:05–11:35 AM • *Sanctuary* — Attend rehearsal and sing in worship TODAY. Contact tpetty@middlechurch.org. — *Arts*

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT “Ancestors Among Us” Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, preacher** • Deuteronomy 26.1–11 • In-the-Middle Choir • Middle Church Choir. — *Worship*

• **JOIN THE MOVEMENT** — 12:45–1:15 PM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 12:45–1:30 PM • *Social Hall* — Coffee and conversation.

• **FREEDOM SCHOOL: VILLAGE CHORUS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** — 1:00–2:15 PM • *Community Room* — For info, contact John at jdclcueto@middlechurch.org. — *Arts*

• **FILM SCREENING: THREE’S COMPLICATED** — 1:30–4:00 PM • *Sanctuary* — Celebrate Women’s History Month with a screening of *Three’s Complicated*, written and directed by Middle member Shari Carpenter. — *Arts*

The Rich Man's House

(Traditional)

Well, I went down to the rich man's house
And I took back what he stole from me
Took it back, took it back.

REPEAT

CHORUS

Under my feet, under my feet
Under my feet, under my feet
Ain't gonna let no system walk all over me.

Well, I went down to the Church House
And I took back what they stole from me
Took it back, took it back.

REPEAT

CHORUS

Well, I went down to the White House
And I took back what they stole from me
Took it back, took it back.

REPEAT

CHORUS

THIS WEEK: LAWD, I KNOW I'VE BEEN CHANGED

- Sometimes God's presence is elusive. How can you focus and see God everywhere?
- I'm praying for the transformation in my life. Where do you need to be changed?
- How does a close walk with God change how we use ourselves and resources?

LAST WEEK: THE POWER OF PROXIMITY

- Is there a truth from your past that you must confront to receive liberating love?
- What transformation might you experience as you move closer to this truth?
- How or where is God inviting Middle to change so that we grow as an anti-racist church?

REVOLUTIONARY LOVE: THE POLITICS OF FAITH

Friday, April 5–Sunday, April 7, 2018 at Middle Church

Speakers include Wajahat Ali, Ritu Bhasin, Traci Blackmon, Taquienna Boston, Shifra Bronznick, Angela Buchdahl, Mark Charles, Shane Claiborne, Kaitlin Curtice, Miguel De La Torre, Michael Dinwiddie, Gary Dorrien, Kelly Brown Douglas, Karen Jackson, Amichai Lau-Lavie, Jacqui Lewis, Michael Martin, Michael-Ray Mathews, Lake Murdock, Camilo Perez-Bustillo, Carlos Pinero, Zainab Salbi, Ruby Sales, Linda Sarsour, Rob Stephens, Ilka Vega, Raphael Warnock, Damaris Whittaker, angel Kyodo Williams, and Marianne Williamson.

Register at bit.ly/Rev-Love.

Enter the code **Middle2019** to receive the Middle member discount rate of **\$150 per ticket (regular rate \$399)**.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Middle Collegiate Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by Revolutionary Love, with room for all. Following in the Way of Jesus' radical love, and inspired by the prophets, Middle Church is called by God to do a bold new thing on the earth. We aim to heal the soul and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, and homophobic systems of oppression.

Because our God is still speaking in many languages, we work in inter-religious partnerships to uproot injustice, eradicate poverty, care for the brokenhearted, and build the Reign of God on earth. This activism is fueled by our faith; our faith is expressed in art; our art is an active prayer connecting us with the Holy Spirit. Middle Church affirms the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

Ella's Song

(Bernice Johnson Reagon)

REFRAIN

We who believe in freedom cannot rest.
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.

Until the killing Black men, Black mothers' sons
Is as important as the killing of White men, White mother's sons

REFRAIN

The older I get the better I know that the secret of my going on
Is when the reins are in the hands of the young who dare to run against the storm.

To me, young people come first, they have the courage where we fail
And if I can but shed some light as they carry us through the gale.

REFRAIN

Struggling myself don't mean a whole lot I've come to realize
That teaching others to stand up and fight is the only way my struggle survives

I'm a woman who speaks in a voice that must be heard
At times I can be quite difficult, I'll bow to no man's word.

REFRAIN

SING, PLAY, MOVE: AN INTEGRATED MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

March 24, April 28, May 26 • 1:15–1:45 PM

A half-hour opportunity for Pre-Readers to join Middle's Village Chorus for Children & Youth on the 4th Sunday of the month. Kids ages 3, 4, and 5 who love singing and having fun with music are invited to join VCCY for these sessions. Parents/guardians: Please accompany young ones. For more info, contact John Del Cueto at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – Senior Minister for Vision and Worship
Rev. Bertram Johnson, M.S.W. – Minister for Care and Spiritual Development
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – Minister for Congregational Life
Rev. Rob Stephens – Consulting Minister for Organizing
Marte Samuelstuen, M.Sci. – Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults
Christina Fleming, M.Sci. – Director of Communications
Cheryl Cochran – Director, Community Center

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**A BOLD
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Middle Collegiate Church

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold