

# SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MARCH 24, 2019 • 9:30 & 11:45 AM • CELEBRATING ARETHA FRANKLIN!  
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — A TRANSFORMING JOURNEY TOWARD LOVE

~ GATHERING ~

**PRELUDE++** “RESPECT” (Otis Redding)

**INTROIT** “My Soul’s Been Anchored in the Lord” (Traditional Spiritual)  
Maurio Hines, soloist

**HYMN\*++** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP\*** Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

Thank you God of many names, and so much love, for gathering us like a mother hen

**You are a rock in a weary land, A shelter in a time of storm**

Like Mary rocked Baby Jesus, our God comforts us when we're frightened

**And holds us in womb-like mercy**

**ALL: We worship you today, Loving God; bless us to be a blessing. Amen.**

~ REFLECTING ~

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES** Marte Samuelstuen  
“Siyahamba” —We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS++** Jacqui Lewis

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Bertram Johnson  
**LORD’S PRAYER/CONGREGATIONAL AMEN\***  
“Wholy Holy” (Renaldo Benson, Al Cleveland, and Marvin P. Gaye)

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** “Natural Woman” (Gerry Goffin, Carole King, and Jerry Wexler)  
Kristina Nicole Miller, soloist

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 55.1–13 Kaliswa Brewster

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Bridge over Troubled Water” (Paul Simon)  
Samantha Waite, soloist

**SERMON** “The Fiercest Love” Jacqui Lewis

~ RESPONDING ~

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

**OFFERTORY/OFFERING** “I Say a Little Prayer” (Burt Bacharach and Hal David)  
Elizabeth Stanley, soloist

Place gift in bag • Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://www.middlechurch.org/donate) • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666  
*What’s on your heart? Complete the red pew card and share your thoughts.*

**DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION PRAYER\*** Christina Fleming  
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\*** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

**BENEDICTION\*** Jacqui Lewis

**POSTLUDE** “You’re All I Need to Get By” (Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson)

\*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 •**

**Middle Church Band** • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; 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](https://www.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* — **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / CELEBRATING ARETHA FRANKLIN! “The Fiercest Love” Jacqui Lewis, preacher** • Isaiah 55.1–13 • Music from Maurio Hines, Kristina Nicole Miller, Elizabeth Stanley, Samantha Waite. — *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*

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

• **PARENTS IN THE MIDDLE** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *5th Floor Parlor* — Parents and faith.

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / CELEBRATING ARETHA FRANKLIN! “The Fiercest Love” Jacqui Lewis, preacher** • Isaiah 55.1–13 • Music from Maurio Hines, Kristina Nicole Miller, Elizabeth Stanley, Samantha Waite. — *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 [jdelcueto@middlechurch.org](mailto:jdelcueto@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*

• **FREEDOM SCHOOL: SING, PLAY, MOVE (AGES 3–5)** — 1:15–1:45 PM • *Community Room* — For info, contact John at [jdelcueto@middlechurch.org](mailto:jdelcueto@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*

**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](https://bit.ly/middlechurchcelebrations).

**DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY— Our #LOVEtransforms Campaign runs through Pride Sunday on June 30.** Thank you for all the ways you have shown up for LOVE across the country and in our sanctuary. Together you are reclaiming and reframing Christianity. Make a recurring love offering to Middle Church. With your help, we'll reach our \$725,000 offering goal by June 30! **To help us plan for the future, create a recurring donation (weekly, monthly or annually) at [www.middlechurch.org/donate](https://www.middlechurch.org/donate).** If you already give this way, THANK YOU! Please show your love with a donation. — *In gratitude, Darren Johnston and Middle Consistory*

**PRAYER CORNER** *Please pray with us and share your journey toward #LOVEtransforms.*

**How are we transformed by LOVE and how is the love at Middle Church transforming the world?** Together we can work to— **Strengthen our loving community through one-on-one conversations and storytelling.** We will share all the joys and pain our hearts hold and build relationships strong enough to transform the world. **Power our movement with resources of time and talents.** Visit [middlechurch.org](https://www.middlechurch.org) to find ways to volunteer or share a “heart offering” in Sunday worship. **Share what we love about Middle Church in a video.** Record a 30-second video of what you love about Middle Church to share in your networks.

# THIS WEEK AT MIDDLE CHURCH

Check [middlechurch.org](https://www.middlechurch.org) for full details of all events, including AA, NA, and Alanon.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

• **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 26

• **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** — 6:30–8:00 PM • *4th Floor Classroom* — As we embark on a transforming journey towards love, bring your dinner and join our pastors for a Lenten Spiritual Practice of Writing Our Stories. — *Adult Education*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 – NO PROGRAMMING

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

• **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: Invigorating.** — *Arts*

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – NO PROGRAMMING

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – NO PROGRAMMING

• **SEEING THE RACIAL WATERS WITH ROBIN DIANGELO** — 1:00–4:00 PM • *Sanctuary* — Explore topics including white socialization, systemic racism, the specific ways racism manifests for white progressives, safety versus comfort, the politics of emotions, and white fragility with **Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility***. Lecture, structured reflection, and small group discussions. Book signing to follow. **Tickets \$60–\$135. For tickets, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2216880825230383/>** — *Adult Education*

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

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

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH • Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Damaris Whittaker of Fort Washington Collegiate Church** • Middle Church Choir. — *Worship*

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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](mailto:jdelcueto@middlechurch.org).**

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](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org) if you are interested.**

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

S. J. S. John Brown,  
1779; alt.

St. A, A Chanticleer or Sacred Solitude (201)

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, sad snares, I  
 3 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 4 When we've been thro' ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 have al - ready come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures: God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now and found, was blind but now I see.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 pu - tious be as long as life en - dures,  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright © 1978 by E. W. Hymns Press.  
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Tune: AMAZING GRACE (C.M. NEW BRITAIN)  
 Columbia University, New York, 1855; alt. South (1) 1870; 1906

### THIS WEEK: THE FIERCEST LOVE

- On this Lenten journey, how are you transformed by love?

## REVOLUTIONARY LOVE: THE POLITICS OF FAITH

Friday, April 5–Sunday, April 7, 2019 at Middle Church

Speakers include John Pavlovitz, Wajahat Ali, Ritu Bhasin, Traci Blackmon, Taquiena 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, Lane 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](http://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.

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Sebastian, 1871; alt.

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble so - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heavy - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer,  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

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Tune: ERIE 5:28.2.D.

### 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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#### CONSISTORY

ELDERS	DEACONS	LOCAL DEACON
Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.	Edna Benitez	Vincent Parham
Vickie Burns	Lila Boyer	
Kent Holliday	Gerald Lazore	
Darren Johnston CHAIR	Claudia Slacik	Representatives to
Darren Major	Kelly Smith	INTERSECTIONS
Hadaryah Morgan	Phyllistine Travis	Elder – Danita Branam
Jeff Mummert		Deacon – Robert Perry
Natalie Runyon		

welcoming  
**A BOLD  
 NEW** artistic  
**THING**  
 inclusive

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – Senior Minister



**Middle Collegiate Church**  
 welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold