

~ GATHERING ~

PRELUDE "Wayfaring Stranger" (Trad. Amer. folk)

WELCOME Bertram Johnson

HYMN "Give Me a Clean Heart"
(M. Douroux; A. D. Tessier; N. Williams, Jr.)

Give me a clean heart
so I may serve Thee.
Lord, fix my heart
so that I may be used by Thee.
For I'm not worthy
of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart
and I'll follow Thee.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Jenn Hagedorn

~ REFLECTING ~

SCRIPTURE Psalm 51 Bertram Johnson
Jenn Hagedorn

HOMILY "The Broken Hearts Club" Bertram Johnson

SERMONIC HYMN "Wait for the Lord" Taize
Bertram Johnson

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart.

~ LENTEN COMMUNION AND ASHES ~

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION Jenn Hagedorn

Sacraments are embodiments of the good news of God's Word. This bread of life, this cup of blessing are set before us to nourish us as we seek to be God's blessing in the world. So come, let us join in this foretaste of God's Reign, when everyone will have food to eat, and drink to quench their thirst; when everyone will have enough.

**THE GREAT PRAYER
OF THANKSGIVING** Bertram Johnson

May God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to our God
Let us give thanks to God, who breathed life into us, and set us in this world to love and serve God and God's people.
Though we are imperfect, you pursue us with your love, and call us to turn toward you with our full hearts.
ALL: You are Holy. You are Blessed.
You are worthy of our praise!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION Bertram Johnson

Even when being betrayed, Jesus he sat at table with his disciples and took bread and blessed it and broke it, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took a cup, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, remembering me. But I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Reign of God comes."

THE MEANING OF ASHES Jenn Hagedorn

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence. This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life, and marks the penitence of the community of faith. We invite you, therefore, to take this Lenten journey toward Love, with self-examination, and confession; with prayer and sacrifice; with acts of love and service; and with Bible study and meditation. Come, take communion by intinction, and then receive ashes and a blessing.

"Imagine" (John Lennon)

CLOSING PRAYER The People of God

**Thank you, gracious God, for the gift of life.
Thank you for our teacher Jesus, and
Your Spirit among us. Help us to walk
in the Way of Love, that we might serve
and heal all of creation to your Glory. Amen.**

~ RESPONDING ~

OFFERTORY "Imagine" (John Lennon)

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or text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

HYMN "Let It Be" (Paul McCartney)

When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
And in my hour of darkness
She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
Let it be, let it be.
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the broken hearted people
Living in the world agree,
There will be an answer, let it be.
For though they may be parted there is
Still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer, let it be.
Let it be, let it be.
There will be an answer, let it be.

And when the night is cloudy,
There is still a light that shines on me,
Shine on until tomorrow, let it be.
I wake up to the sound of music
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
Let it be, let it be.
There will be an answer, let it be.
Let it be, let it be,
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

BENEDICTION Bertram Johnson

Please depart in silence.

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Rev. Bertram Johnson and Jenn Hagedorn, worship leaders

The Jammers • Kaede Zaitso Helck (ukulele), Pete Grenfell (guitar), Kristi Grenfell (ukulele), Jo Jo Morrison (bass), Tami Petty (guitar)

Dionne McClain-Freeney, pianist

REVOLUTIONARY LOVE

The Politics of Faith

Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7, 2019 in New York City

We invite you to join a learning community committed to moral courage that leads to ethical leadership; a community of activists fueled by spiritual imagination that leads to prophetic witness. Hear from powerful and insightful voices calling for revolutionary love.

We will begin with a **Social Analysis**, looking at the competing visions of America, and the impact the myth of a Christian America has on our political process. Then, we will turn our attention to **The Future of Democracy**. We will continue with a focus on the work of **Movement Building: Leading in Hot Mess Times**. Finally, our charge going forward will center on the impact of revolutionary love as we engage **Faith in the Public Square**.

Speakers include Jacqui Lewis, Mark Charles, Ritu Bhasin, Wajahat Ali, Zainab Salbi, Miguel De La Torre, Lisa Sharon Harper, Traci Blackmon, Shane Claiborne, Genesis Be, Ruby Sales, Marianne Williamson, Linda Sarsour, Gary Dorrien, Raphael Warnock, Angela Buchdahl, Kelly Brown, Douglas, Lane Murdock, angel Kyodo Williams, Amichal Lau-Lavie, Kaitlin Curitce, Malaika Mumeka, Michael-Ray Mathews, Mike Martin, Damaris Whirttaker, Shifra Bronznick, Camilo Peréz-Bustillo, Ilka Vega, Rob Stephens, Taquiena Boston, Michael Dinwiddie, Karen Jackson, Carlos Pinero, Doug Pagitt, and musical guests BETTY.

To register, visit bit.ly/Rev-Love

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



WELCOME TO MIDDLE COLLEGIATE 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 a clergy after worship. Complete the pew card or sign the guest book in the narthex to receive our newsletter or eblast. Please silence your cell phone and leave food or drink outside. Thank you for your cooperation.

Middle Collegiate Church

SANCTUARY 112 Second Ave. (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.)
OFFICE 50 East 7th St. • New York, NY 10003
TELEPHONE (212) 477-0666
WEBSITE middlechurch.org
E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org
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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

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 6, 2019 at 7:00 PM