

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MAY 12, 2019 • 9:30 & 11:45 AM • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

~ GATHERING ~

PRELUDE++ “Prelude on Londonderry Air” (Noel Rawsthorne)

INTROIT “Grace” (Rebecca King)
Rebecca King, soloist

INVITATION TO WORSHIP* Caroline Ainsworth Hughes

Come! Lift your voices to our Creator who always hears us.

Listen, God. Hear our voices sing your praises.

Sing to God. Because God draws near to hear us.

Listen, God. We lift our voices to you in praise and petition.

Call to God by each of God's holy names, all God's people.

Listen, God. We call because you are wonderful and just.

You heal us. You raise us up. And you turn our lives around.

HYMN** “My Shepherd Is the Living God”

~ 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++ Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE LORD’S PRAYER/CONGREGATIONAL AMEN* Jacqui Lewis
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 “The Lord Is My Shepherd” (Howard Goodall)
Beth Hatton, soloist

SCRIPTURE Psalm 23 Dianne Galashaw

SERMON “The Alchemy of the Apology” Eve Ensler

~ RESPONDING ~

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

OFFERTORY/OFFERING “Walk with Me” (Leon C. Roberts)
Place gift in bag • Donate at middlechurch.org/donate • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION PRAYER* Dianne Galashaw
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* “God of Love and Joy and Laughter”

BENEDICTION* Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE “Hymn to Joy” (Albert L. Travis)

*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 • Allison Sniffin, organ/piano

Middle Church Choir • Tami L. Petty D.M.A., Director — Beth Hatton, Ann Wazelle, Melissa Casey José, Joslyn King, Nedra Neal, Matthew Deming, Eric Lamp, Robert Hughes, Mark Rehnstrom, Wesley Rowell, Charles Brown.

In-the-Middle Choir • Tami L. Petty D.M.A., Director — The Middle Church Choir and volunteer singers from the congregation.

Guest preacher Eve Ensler is a Tony Award-winning playwright, performer, and activist. Ensler is the author of *The Vagina Monologues* and creator of V-Day, a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls.

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

• **IN-THE-MIDDLE CHOIR REHEARSAL** — 8:45–9:25 AM • *Sanctuary* — Attend rehearsal and sing in worship TODAY. Contact Tami at 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* — **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER “The Alchemy of Apology” Eve Ensler, guest preacher** • Psalm 23 • Middle Church Choir. — *Worship*

• **BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Social Hall* — Help prepare sandwiches for distribution to the hungry in local parks. — *Give Help*

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

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 10:35–11:35 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*

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

• **BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT)** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *4th Floor Studio* — Join intern Caroline Ainsworth Hughes and Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft for weekly discussions on the lectionary texts. — *Adult Education*

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

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER “The Alchemy of Apology” Eve Ensler, guest preacher** • Psalm 23 • 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.

• **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — 12:45–2:00 PM • *Meet at Social Hall* — Help to distribute bag lunches for the hungry in local parks. — *Give Help*

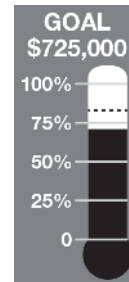
• **FREEDOM SCHOOL: VILLAGE CHORUS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** — 1:00–2:15 PM • *Community Room* — For info, contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org. — *Arts*

VIDEOS AND PODCASTS — Worship music and sermon videos: youtube.com/MiddleNYC.

Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch.

Middle Church Celebrations podcast: bit.ly/middlechurchcelebrations.

DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY— We are at 83% of the program year, and have raised 69% of our \$725,000 offering goal. That’s \$498,143, with \$226,857 to go. We can do it, and we must. Why? Because \$725,000 does not cover our costs. It is just 32% of our \$2.3 million budget. Our program revenue covers another 14%—renting the building, running our conference, and so forth. Our partner, the Collegiate Church of New York, funds the rest, and her contributions are decreasing year by year, requiring us to fund 50% of our ministry by 2022. We need to achieve new goals in giving if we want to maintain our worship, education, programming, and activism. **Please make 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.*

Robin, Umi, Keith, Pop, Mom, John Singleton’s family; Pete, Taina, Jose, Maria Ramos, Ramos family and friends; Ruby-Burns-Bell, Jaden and Jesse; Almestica Family, Jason G, Daniel N, Luz, Evie, Jody, My two moms, Idelisa and Aida; Phyllistine, Jorryn, Sandy Stone, Sierra, Goodale, Luz Ahmet, Donna Johnson, Ansel Pitcairn, Mary Lou Driscoll, Ava, Mordea, Simone, Chip, George, Ricardo, Jackie Bailey and family, Will Daly, Middle Staff and clergy, Homeless, unemployed and underemployed; Janice Wong; Peace and Prosperity all over the globe, Compassion and kindness, Seeing everyone as our brothers and sisters.

THIS WEEK AT MIDDLE CHURCH

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

MONDAY, MAY 13

• **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, MAY 14

• **SCREENING: DEATH BY DELIVERY** — 6:00–8:30 PM • *Parlor* — Viewing and discussion of “Death by Delivery” documentary which highlights the Black Maternal Crisis. For info or to RSVP, contact Amanda at ahashcraft@middlechurch.org. — *Arts and Justice*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 – NO PROGRAMMING

THURSDAY, MAY 16

• **NEW ADVENTURES** — 2:00–3:30 PM • *4th Floor Studio* – Retired or just between jobs? Share time with friends. Contact Bertram at bjohnson@middlechurch.org. — *Being Group*

• **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: Razzmatazz.** — *Arts*

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

FRIDAY, MAY 17 – NO PROGRAMMING

• **SHABBAT SERVICES** — 6:30–8:30 PM • *Social Hall* — TheShulofNewYork.org — *Worship*

SATURDAY, MAY 18 – NO PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, MAY 19

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

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE “Through My Eyes” Jocelyn Lieu, Shanta Thake, and James Wu** • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir. — *Worship*

• **BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Social Hall* — Help prepare sandwiches for distribution to the hungry in local parks. — *Give Help*

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

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 10:35–11:35 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*

• **YOUNG ADULTS SMALL GROUP** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *4th Floor Classroom* — *Being Group*

• **BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT)** — 10:35–11:40 AM • *4th Floor Studio* — Join intern Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft for weekly discussions on the lectionary texts. — *Adult Education*

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE “No Liberty without Economic Justice” Rabbi Angela Buchdahl** • Jerriese Johnson Gospel 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.

• **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — 12:45–2:00 PM • *Meet at Social Hall* — Help to distribute bag lunches for the hungry in local parks. — *Give Help*

• **MIDDLE OUT LOUD** — 12:45–1:30 PM • *Parlor* — Conversation, activities, and community building that centers the experiences of LGBTQIA+ persons of faith. — *Small Group*

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

BUTTERFLY MEAL PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!

Sundays • 9:30–10:30 AM • Social Hall

Join us as we prepare bag lunches for distribution to the hungry in local parks! More hands and feet are always needed. Distribution begins at 12:45 PM. **For more information about volunteering, email Gloria at gmoy@middlechurch.org.**

My Shepherd Is the Living God *Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.*

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

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Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D. Southern Harmony, 1835 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976

THIS WEEK: THE ALCHEMY OF APOLOGY

- An apology is radical truth-telling. It liberates the one we've hurt, and us as well. Who needs an apology from you?

LAST WEEK: QUALIFIED FOR REVOLUTION

- How have you betrayed your sense of who you are this last year?
- How have you betrayed your sense of who God is?
- Have you forgiven yourself?

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.

God of Love and Joy and Laughter *Jane Parker Huber, 1985*

1 God of love and joy and laugh-ter, Call - ing us to fruit - ful days,
 2 When we join in cel - e - bra - tion, Grate - ful for a - bun - dant gifts,
 3 Now we ask your ben - e - dic - tion— Bless - ing, chal - lenge, all in one.

May we be the ech - oes af - ter Church and peo - ple sing your praise.
 Send a - gain that rev - e - la - tion Of your grace that heals all rifts.
 Calm our stress, but use its fric - tion That, through us, your will be done.

Your love calls our love to be - ing, Grows, sur - rounds, up - builds, and holds,
 Grant us love that's deep - er, strong - er, As the days turn in - to years,
 Keep our hope as fresh as morn - ing. Keep our zeal warm as the sun.

Clears our eyes for keen - ly see - ing All the world your love en - folds.
 Wis - dom full - er, pa - ti - ence long - er, Faith and hope through joy and tears.
 Keep our joy, as spring a - born - ing Cheers the hearts of ev - ery - one.

Words: Jane Parker Huber, © 1986; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, Arr. by Edward Hodges. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725559. ASF44

HYMN TO JOY Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 Arr. by Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister for Public Theology & Transformation*
 Rev. Bertram Johnson, M.S.W. – *Exec. Minister for Care, Worship, & the Arts*
 Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Exec. Minister for Justice, Education, & Movement Building*
 Rev. Rob Stephens – *Consulting Minister for Organizing*
 Marte Samuelstuen, M.Sci. – *Director of Children, Youth, & Young Adults*
 Christina Fleming, M.Sci. – *Director of Communications*
 Cheryl Cochran – *Director, Community Center*

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A BOLD
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Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister*