

# SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

AUGUST 25, 2019 • 10:30 AM

SLAVERY IN NORTH AMERICA: 400 YEARS

*Welcome home to Middle Church! After worship begins, please wait to be seated.*

++ Indicates you may find a seat—an Usher may assist you—or take a bio break.

\* Indicates please stand if you are able.

~ GATHERING ~

**PRELUDE**++ “Pathos: an Ibo Meditation on the Passage”  
from *The Journey Suite* (Sharon J. Willis)

**INTROIT** “Lord, How Come Me Here” (Evelyn Simpson-Curanton)  
Alvin Crawford, soloist

**WELCOME / INVITATION TO WORSHIP**++ Chad Tanaka Pack  
*Please pray with me.* Yorùbá Prayer  
To our Gods of old, we bless the ground  
that you tread in search of our freedom!

**We bless your presence in our lives and in our hearts!**

Take of this offering to your delight,  
and be filled with our prayers of thanksgiving!

**May our lives remain as full as our hearts on this day! Amen.**

**HYMN**\*++ “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

~ 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\*** Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

“Fix Me, Jesus” – Amethyst Rose, Dancer  
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** “I Choose Love” (Mark Miller, Lindy Thompson)

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 71.1–6 Derrick Harkins

**SERMON** “In Plain Sight” Derrick Harkins

~ RESPONDING ~

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

**OFFERTORY/OFFERING** “We Will March Thro’ the Valley” (arr. Alice Parker)  
Place gift in bag • Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://middlechurch.org/donate) • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

**DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION PRAYER\*** Chad Tanaka Pack  
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\*** “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

**BENEDICTION\*** Derrick Harkins

**POSTLUDE** “Celebration: Juba” from *Exodus Suite* (Sharon J. Willis)

**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION** • Allison Sniffin, organ/piano

**Summer Choir** • Allison Mickelson, Director — Ann Wazelle, Melissa Casey José, Joslyn King,  
Branch Woodman, Alvin Crawford, and volunteers from the congregation.

# 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 pew card to receive our newsletter or weekly emails. To join our movement, see staff after worship. Learn more at [middlechurch.org](https://middlechurch.org). **Please silence your mobile phone and leave food or drink outside. Please do not walk across the front of the sanctuary while worship is in progress. For the safety of all, no animals are permitted in the building. 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

- **SUMMER CHOIR REHEARSAL** — 9:30–10:15 AM • *Sanctuary* — Attend rehearsal and sing in worship today. Contact [amickelson@middlechurch.org](mailto:amickelson@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*
- **BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Social Hall* — Help prepare sandwiches for distribution to the hungry in local parks. — *Give Help*
- **WEE CARE (INFANT–AGE 4)** — 10:00 AM–1:00 PM • *3rd Floor Nursery* — Childcare.
- **SUMMER CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 10:30–11:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **SLAVERY IN NORTH AMERICA: 400 YEARS • “In Plain Sight” Derrick Harkins, preacher** • Psalm 71.1–6 • Summer Choir. — *Worship*
- **JOIN THE MOVEMENT**— 11:35 AM –12:00 PM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.
- **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 11:35 AM –12:30 PM • *Social Hall* — Coffee and conversation. — *Community*
- **KIDS IN THE MIDDLE (GRADES K–5)** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *3rd Floor Studio* — Explore the Bible with the arts—singing, acting, and drawing. — *Children and Youth Education*
- **SERMON TALKBACK** — 11:45–1:15 PM • *4th Floor Studio* — Join Derrick Harkins to reflect, explore, and further discuss the week’s sermon. — *Adult Education*
- **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — 12:30–1:30 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** — *Summer break.* For info, contact John at [jdclcueto@middlechurch.org](mailto:jdclcueto@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*

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

**DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY**— The consistory and I are SO very proud of the way you showed up last program year, raising money for our special Christmas Eve broadcast, our Puerto Rico missions, and our operating budget! Thank you so much!

Our new fiscal year began July 1. This year we must give \$875,000 in order to fund our ministries and programs. As you know, we are committed to funding 50% of our budget by 2022, and this year’s goal is an important part of getting there.

**Your participation and investment in this work, whether through an annual pledge or weekly or monthly recurring gifts, is critical to powering this movement, making sure we can meet our goal to reclaim and reframe Christianity toward LOVE. Period.**

**Donate NOW at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://middlechurch.org/donate).**

**—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory**

**PRAYER CORNER** *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*  
Please pray with us this week for the people in the Middle community and beyond, including individuals and families struggling with poverty, loneliness, addictions, and hardships.  
Prayer Requests submitted on August 19 – September 1 will appear in the September 8 bulletin.  
**MIDDLEPRAYS** — Join our virtual prayer circle to offer prayerful support to our Middle community. For more information, contact [middleprays@middlechurch.org](mailto:middleprays@middlechurch.org)

# THIS WEEK AT MIDDLE CHURCH

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

• **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** — *Summer break.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 – NO PROGRAMMING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 – NO PROGRAMMING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 – NO PROGRAMMING

• **CREATIVE WRITING** — *Summer break*

• **JERRIESE JOHNSON GOSPEL CHOIR** — *Summer break—Resumes September 5!* For info, contact John at [jdclcueto@middlechurch.org](mailto:jdclcueto@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 – NO PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- **SUMMER CHOIR REHEARSAL** — 9:30–10:15 AM • *Sanctuary* — Attend rehearsal and sing in worship today. Contact [amickelson@middlechurch.org](mailto:amickelson@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*
- **BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Social Hall* — Help prepare sandwiches for distribution to the hungry in local parks. — *Give Help*
- **WEE CARE (INFANT–AGE 4)** — 10:00 AM–1:00 PM • *3rd Floor Nursery* — Childcare.
- **SUMMER CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 10:30–11:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **LABOR DAY / THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE • Christina Fleming, preacher** • Luke 14.1, 7–14 • Summer Choir • Communion. — *Worship*
- **JOIN THE MOVEMENT**— 11:35 AM –12:00 PM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.
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- **SERMON TALKBACK** — 11:45–1:15 PM • *4th Floor Studio* — Join Middle Church staff to reflect, explore, and further discuss the week’s sermon. — *Adult Education*
- **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — 12:30–1:30 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** — *Summer break.* For info, contact John at [jdclcueto@middlechurch.org](mailto:jdclcueto@middlechurch.org). — *Arts*

BUTTERFLY MEAL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**9:30–10:30 AM; 12:30 –1:30 PM • 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 12:30 PM. **For more information about volunteering, contact Gloria at [gmoy@middlechurch.org](mailto:gmoy@middlechurch.org).** You make it happen, Middle family!

**SHARE OUR MIDDLE WELCOME AS A HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEER**  
Do you enjoy the yummy food at Community Hour every Sunday? Did you know you can help serve the food? **Contact Elise at [etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org) or 212-477-0666 ext 319 to receive more information on volunteering for this important Hospitality food ministry.**

THE SUMMER CHOIR NEEDS YOUR VOICE!

**Every Sunday through September 8 • 9:30–10:15 AM • Sanctuary**

Come as you are. Attend rehearsal and sing at the 10:30 AM worship celebration the same day. For more information, contact Allison at [amickelson@middlechurch.org](mailto:amickelson@middlechurch.org).

NEW — VOTER REFORM PROJECT TEAM

We’re kicking off a voter reform project to carry us through 2020. Our work will focus on voter registration, Census 2020, and ending voter suppression. Our first meeting is Sunday, September 22 at 10:30 AM. **To join the team, contact [votingproject@middlechurch.org](mailto:votingproject@middlechurch.org).**

## I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me,  
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me,

I want Je - sus to walk with me,  
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me,

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
When the shades of life are fall - ing,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: Negro spiritual  
Tune: WALK WITH ME, 88 8 9; Negro spiritual; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

### THIS WEEK: IN PLAIN SIGHT

- What are your take-aways from Derrick's sermon? To continue the discussion, join Derrick for the sermon talkback today in the 4th Floor Studio at 11:45 AM.

### MIDDLE MIXER: MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAME Saturday, September 7 • 2:30-6:00 PM

Enjoy a day with your Middle family at a professional soccer game at Yankee Stadium between the New York City Football Club and New England Revolution. All ages welcome! Tickets \$20 a person in a covered seating area. After the game, some participants from Middle will go on the field to do penalty kicks. For more info, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org. **MUST REGISTER by September 4 at 11:59 PM.** Registration at [bit.ly/MCC-MLS19](http://bit.ly/MCC-MLS19)

### 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, xenophobic, 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.

## Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

(James W. Johnson; J. Rosamund Johnson)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun Of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past, Till we now stand at last,  
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light,  
Keep us for ever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places,  
our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine  
of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister in Charge*  
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Exec. Minister for Justice, Operations, & Movement Building*  
Rev. Chad Tanaka Pack – *Interim Exec. Minister for Care & Membership*  
Rev. Rob Stephens – *Consulting Minister for Organizing*  
Marte Samuelstuen, M.Sci. – *Director of Children, Youth, & Young Adults*  
Christina Fleming, M.Sci. – *Director of Communications and Digital Strategy*  
Cheryl Cochran – *Director, Community Center*

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#### CONSISTORY

##### ELDERS

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Vickie Burns  
Darren Johnston CHAIR  
Darren Major  
Hadaryah Morgan  
Jeff Mummert  
Natalie Runyon  
James Wu

##### DEACONS

Edna Benitez  
Lila Boyer  
Gerald Lazore  
Claudia Slacik  
Kelly Smith  
Phyllistine Travis

##### LOCAL DEACON

Vincent Parham

##### Representatives to INTERSECTIONS

**Elder** – Danita Branam  
**Deacon** – Robert Perry

welcoming  
**A BOLD  
NEW artistic  
THING**  
inclusive  
Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister*



**Middle Collegiate Church**

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold