

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 • 10:30 AM • PATRIOT DAY

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++ Dionne McClain-Freeney

INTROIT “Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu” (Sanskrit mantra)
Felipe Gonzalez, performer

Translation: May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all.

WELCOME / INVITATION TO WORSHIP++ Chad Tanaka Pack

HYMN*++ “Come and Go to That Land”

~ 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
“Change Is Gonna Come” (Sam Cooke)

Cory Gibson, soloist • from *As Much As I Can* at Joe’s Pub

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 “Let There Be Peace on Earth” (Sy Miller, Jill Jackson; arr. Mark Hayes)

SCRIPTURE John 20.20–22 Chad Tanaka Pack

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

SERMON “Poetry Slam: Reflections on Breath” Jocelyn Lieu and Erica Hunt

~ RESPONDING ~

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

OFFERTORY/OFFERING “Lady Liberty” (Deborah Berg McCarthy)
Deborah Berg McCarthy and Monica Passin, performers

Place gift in bag • Donate at middlechurch.org/donate • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION PRAYER* Darren Johnston
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* “Oh Say Can You See”

BENEDICTION* Chad Tanaka Pack

POSTLUDE Dionne McClain-Freeney

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano

Summer Choir • Allison Mickelson, Director — Tami Petty, Madge Dietrich, Joslyn King, Leo Paolo Leal, Wesley Rowell, Alvin Crawford, and volunteers from the congregation.

As Much As I Can is a collaboration between Harley & Co, a NYC-based creative studio, and ViiV Healthcare. The project was made possible through a partnership with hundreds of gay and bisexual men from Jackson, Mississippi, and Baltimore, Maryland who shared their stories, passion, and talents to co-create this piece. Performances September 12–16, 2019 at Joe’s Pub.

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. **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. — *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* — **PATRIOT DAY • Poetry Slam featuring Erica Hunt, Jocelyn Lieu, and Chad Tanaka Pack** • John 20.20–22 • 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 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 jdeltueto@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 — 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.

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

PRAYER CORNER *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*
Aunt Gin, Dad, Umi, Ravi, Cousin Jim, India, Robin and Roben, Abdulmalik, Keith, Survivors everywhere; Pete, Taina, Jose, Mariah Ramos, Ramos family and friends; Michael S and LD, Mary T and family, Zia Annamarla, Matt Joslow, Josepha, John Maro; Edgardo Acevedo and family; Please let us be better stewards of our planet and towards our brothers and sisters have across the country and across the globe. Let’s each rise to the occasion; For peace, justice and democracy in Hong Kong; Mikey LD, Zia and family, Joslows; Peace, Love, Compassion and Humanity worldwide, Remember to Do unto others . . .; The deer of Fire Island and Staten Island, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Jake; Katherine Stevens; Phyllistine, Jorryn, Victor, Ydalia Diaz, Sierra Goodale, Sandy Stone, Cynthia, Amy, Janet Vigilante, Chip, Kendall Thomas, Eleanor, Philip, Sam, Nick, Middle Staff and Clergy, Homeless, unemployed, underemployed, William; LLP, Josep A, Michael, LD, Zia, Joslows, John Mario; Robin, Roben, Umi, Aunt Gin, Abdulmalik, Ravi, Dad, Mom, The victims and survivors of this new mass shooting – please make it stop.

THIS WEEK AT MIDDLE CHURCH

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- **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.*
- **PUB THEOLOGY** — 7:00–8:30 pm • *Shades of Green Pub (125 East 15th Street between Irving Place and Third Avenue)* — Gather at a local bar to talk about life, faith, God, theology, and more. This group is geared toward 20–40-year-olds, though all are welcome. For more information, contact youngadults@middlechurch.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – NO PROGRAMMING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – NO PROGRAMMING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – NO PROGRAMMING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – NO PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

STARTS TODAY! TWO WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS AT 9:30 AND 11:45 AM

- **WEE CARE (INFANT–AGE 4)** — 9:15 AM–1:15 PM • *3rd Fl Nursery* — Childcare.
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **HOMECOMING SUNDAY • “Come Home to Love” Jacqui Lewis, preacher** • Luke 15.11–32 • Middle Church Choir • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir. — *Worship*
- **BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION** and **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — *on hiatus.*
- **JOIN THE MOVEMENT**— 10:30–10:45 AM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.
- **HOMECOMING OPPORTUNITIES FAIR** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *Social Hall* — This is the perfect opportunity to join us for food and mingle with your Middle family. Browse the many different ways you can get engaged at Middle Church. Representatives from all of our ministries and small groups will be available to answer all your questions to help you get plugged in. Middle store open! — *Community*
- **KIDS IN THE MIDDLE (GRADES K–5)** and **BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT)** — *Attend the Homecoming Opportunities Fair and learn about new ways to connect, learn, and grow.*
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **HOMECOMING SUNDAY • “Come Home to Love” Jacqui Lewis, preacher** • Luke 15.11–32 • Middle Church Choir • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir.— *Worship*
- **JOIN THE MOVEMENT** — 12:45–1:15 PM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.
- **HOMECOMING OPPORTUNITIES FAIR** — 1:00–2:30 PM • *Social Hall* — This is the perfect opportunity to join us for food and mingle with your Middle family. Browse the many different ways you can get engaged at Middle Church. Representatives from all of our ministries and small groups will be available to answer all your questions to help you get plugged in. Middle store open! — *Community*
- **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — 12:45–2:00 PM • *Meet at Social Hall* — Help to distribute bag lunches for the hungry in local parks. — *Doing Group*
- **FREEDOM SCHOOL: VILLAGE CHORUS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** — *Summer break.* For info, contact John at jdeltueto@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. You make it happen, Middle family!

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.**

Come and Go to That Land

(Traditional)

Come and go to that land, come and go to that land
Come and go to that land where I'm bound
Come and go to that land, come and go to that land
Come and go to that land where I'm bound

Nothing but peace in that land, nothing but peace in that land
Nothing but peace in that land where I'm bound
Nothing but peace in that land, nothing but peace in that land
Nothing but peace in that land where I'm bound

No more hatred in that land...

Come and go to that land...

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

(Edwin Hatch; Robert Jackson)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
That I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
stir in me one desire,
That every earthly part of me
may glow with your holy fire.

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THIS WEEK: REFLECTONS ON BREATH

- Breath, Spirit, Wind—they are the same words in Hebrew (*Ruach*) and Greek (*Pneuma*).
- Where are you feeling BREATHless? Inhale now as a ritual to fill that space.
- Where do you need an influx of Spirit in your life?
- Where do you pray America will have the Winds of Change blow through?

LAST WEEK: THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

- What does love look like to you?
- What are ways people and Spirit has been hospitable to you?
- This week what radical act of hospitality would you like to offer?

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.

Oh Say Can You See

(Lyrics: Jacqui Lewis)

Oh say can you see
what is plain to behold
Though we shout liberty,
there are too many in chains
We are shackled by greed,
and the fear we are small
But this truth must be told,
there is one God who loves all

Won't you give me your hand
and together we'll stand
With radical love
heal our souls and our land

Oh say can't we end all this
fighting and strife
And walk toward the light
that we all might be free

HOMEcoming! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Two Worship Celebrations Resume at 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM

Homecoming Opportunities Fairs at 10:45 AM and 1:00 PM

Come Home to Love at Middle Church on Sunday, September 15! Two inspiring worship celebrations will feature music from the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir and the Middle Church Choir, and The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis will preach. A festive opportunities fair follows each worship celebration with ways for you to sign up for small groups, activism, and service in our new program year. PLUS, we will take your photograph for our directory, update contact information, EAT, participate in a congregation wide "Play Fair," and compete in a "Homecoming Challenge" for the chance to win vintage swag! You don't want to miss Homecoming Sunday at Middle Church.

Learn more at middlechurch.org/news/homecoming-sunday-middle-church

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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Middle Collegiate Church

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold