

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 • 9:30 & 11:45 AM • HOMECOMING SUNDAY

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 “Home” from *The Wiz* (Charlie Smalls; arr. Allison Sniffin)
Madge Dietrich, soloist

INTROIT “Awesome God” (Shawn Brown)

WELCOME / INVITATION TO WORSHIP++ Darryl Alladice

HYMN*++ “Holy, Holy Holy”

~ 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 LORD’S PRAYER/CONGREGATIONAL AMEN* Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

“Dona nobis pacem: Nation Shall Not Lift up Sword” (Ralph Vaughan Williams; Mark Rehnstrom, soloist organ transcription by Allison Sniffin)

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 “Bring Him Home” from *Les Misérables* (Claude Michel Schönberg)
Branch Woodman, soloist

SCRIPTURE Luke 15.11–32 Charles Randolph Wright and Joe Pagana (9:30)
Mark Unthank and Michele O’Neal (11:45)

SERMON “Come Home to Love” Jacqui Lewis

~ RESPONDING ~

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

OFFERTORY/OFFERING “For Every Mountain” (Kurt Carr)
Natalie Perkins, soloist

Place gift in bag • Donate at 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* “Welcome”

BENEDICTION* Jacqui Lewis
Please be seated for a special activity.

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • Allison Sniffin, organ/piano

Middle Church Choir • Tami Petty, D.M.A.–Music Director — Ann Wazelle, Beth Hatton, Melissa Casey José, Nedra Neal, Allison Mickelson, Patrice Eaton, Robert Hughes, Branch Woodman, Eric Lamp, Mark Rehnstrom, Wesley Rowell, Alvin Crawford.

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • John Del Cueto–Music Director

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney–Music Director, piano; Jeremy Price, Hammond organ; BAASSIK, bass; Casual-T, 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. 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

• **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.

• **BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION** and **BUTTERFLY MEAL DISTRIBUTION** — *on hiatus*.

• **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!

• **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.

• **VIRTUAL HOMECOMING GATHERING** — Connect in real time with other online members. Join our digital minister, Natalie Perkins, directly after our 11:45 AM worship celebration and participate in the Homecoming Opportunities Fair. Here’s the link for how to join the fun—<http://bit.ly/mcc-monthly-online>

• **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!

• **FREEDOM SCHOOL: VILLAGE CHORUS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** — *Summer break.* For info, contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org.

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.

As of this printing, we have donations and pledges for \$158,194.88 which is 18.08% of our offering goal. THAT’S AMAZING!

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.*

We give thanks for the beautiful life of Middle member Anita Parker, who passed away in her sleep September 12. We pray for comfort for her family, including her son, Ben Parker.

The victims of Hurricane Dorian especially the Bahamas, Please help us be better people in every way and to everyone; India, Robin, Cousin Jim, Aunt Gin, Roben, Dad, Umi, Keith; Prayer for those lost on 9/11/01; For the families and lost one left behind and those who’ve gone to their rest since; Joseph Amorando, Zia A, LD & MS, Frank G.

THIS WEEK AT MIDDLE CHURCH

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- **MOMENTUM MEALS** — *Social Hall* — Lunch 11:30 AM–1:00 PM / Dinner 5:30–6:30 PM • Free, nutritious meal and food pantry for clients and the community.
- **ACTING CLASS** — 6:00–7:30 PM • *3rd Fl Studio* —Work on scenes, monologues, dance, and music to build your own show.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- **REPARATIONS COLLECTIVE FALL CONVERSATION** — 7:00–8:30 PM • *Parlor* — Led by Jacqui Lewis and Adam Fitzgerald. Participants must attend at least 3 of 4 sessions.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- **QUEER BLACK MEN SMALL GROUP** — 7:00–8:30 PM • *4th Floor Studio* — Through spiritual lenses, examine issues that affect queer black male lives, and all our lives. — *Small Group*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- **NEW ADVENTURES** — 2:00–3:30 PM • *4th Fl Studio* — Retired or just between jobs? Share time with friends. Contact Elise at etiralli@middlechurch.org. — Being Group
- **CREATIVE WRITING** — 6:30–8:00 PM • *4th Fl Studio* — A supportive place to work on an idea you’ve always wanted to write. **THIS WEEK: Phoenix.**
- **JERRIESE JOHNSON GOSPEL CHOIR** — 7:00–9:00 PM • *Community Room* — Weekly rehearsal. For more information, contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **MIDDLE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR YOUTH-LED GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE AND RALLY** — 10:30 am–5:00 pm — *Meet at St. Paul’s Chapel (209 Broadway, Manhattan)* — Faith marchers gather for coffee, bagels, and sign making. We encourage all to arrive by 11:15.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- **YOUTH OUTING TO GOVERNOR’S ISLAND** — 10:00 AM–5:00 PM • *Meet Marte and Elise at Middle (50 East 7th Street entrance) at 10:00 AM* — For Grades 6–12. \$10 fee covers food, mini golf, transportation. **Must submit signed permission slip. RSVP: youth@middlechurch.org.**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 9:30–10:30 AM • *Sanctuary* — **HISPANIC HERITAGE** • **“In This Place We Flesh” Wesley Rowell, preacher** • Psalm 139 • Queer Black Men small group, worship leaders • Baptism.

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

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

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *Social Hall* — 9:30 worshippers and those arriving for 11:45 worship share coffee and conversation.

• **KIDS IN THE MIDDLE (GRADES K–5)** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *3rd Fl Studio* — Explore the Bible with the arts—singing, acting, drawing—and brunch.

• **BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT)** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *4th Fl Studio* — Lively weekly conversations exploring scripture for deeper meaning in our lives.

• **NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION—PART 1** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *Parlor* — Join Middle clergy for a two-part orientation between the worship celebrations. **New members will be welcomed at both worship celebrations on September 29.**

• **STREET FAIR PLANNING MEETING** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *4th Fl Classroom* —To RSVP for this planning meeting, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

• **VOTER REFORM PROJECT** — 10:45–11:30 AM • *Conference Room* — Voter registration and ending voter suppression. To join the team, contact votingproject@middlechurch.org.

• **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • *Sanctuary* — **HISPANIC HERITAGE** • **“In This Place We Flesh” Wesley Rowell, preacher** • Psalm 139 • Queer Black Men small group, worship leaders.

• **JOIN THE MOVEMENT** — 12:45–1:15 PM • *Sanctuary* — Learn about Middle membership.

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

• **ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING** — 12:45–1:45 PM • *Sanctuary*

• **COMMUNITY HOUR** — 1:00–1:30 PM • *Social Hall* — Coffee and conversation.

• **LAS MUJERES DE ABRIL** — 1:45–3:00 PM • *Sanctuary* — Middle member Lourdes Bernard presents a Hispanic heritage spotlight on women freedom fighters during the resistance of the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic. Learn more at lourdesbernard.com.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly,
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Words: Reginald Heber, Music: John B. Dykes, Word Alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725559. NCS177
 Tune: NICAEA 11.12.12.10. John B. Dykes, 1861

THIS WEEK: COME HOME TO LOVE

- This whole section of Luke is about loss: woman loses coin, shepherd loses sheep, father loses son. We've all lost something; as Ruby says, "Where does it hurt?"
- Something pushes the younger son to leave "home," and then he "comes to himself" and returns to love. Is his story in any way like yours?
- The father's joy that what was lost is now found points to God's joy when we turn back toward God. Take a moment and tell God about any way you need to turn around, and ask for help to do so.
- How do we make Middle Church more like "home" for you? For others?

LAST WEEK: REFLECTIONS 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?

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.

Welcome

(Tituss Burgess)

You're welcome in this house
 Rest inside this house
 We all are flawed, no judgments made.
 That's the beauty of this place

You're welcome if you're gay
 You're welcome if you're straight
 Bi, transgender, or confused –
 this invitation's for you too.

Oh, it's safe here
 Minds can renew here
 Come in and you'll find out.

No one is turned away
 This rule we cannot break
 And just in case you're wondering –
 We're more alike than it may seem

Oh, it's safe here
 Minds can renew here
 Come in and you'll find out.

You are welcome – come as you are, rest here, there is room for all

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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 29 at 10:30 AM. **To join the team, contact votingproject@middlechurch.org.**

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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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