Welcome to Middle Church! After worship begins, please wait to be seated. Please respect this sacred time by not moving during prayers, teaching, and choral singing. * Indicates you may feed a seat—an usher may assist you—or take a seat break. * Indicates please stand if you are able.

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE++ Middle Church Band

INTROIT “Behold That Star” (Trad. ad: John Del Cueto)

WELCOME/INVITATION TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

INSTALLATION OF CONSTITUENCY

HYMN++ “Children, Go Where I Send Thee”

REFLECTING

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Pamela Edgar and the Little Angel Church

“Siyahamba” — We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS++

Jaci Lewis

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amanda Hambirk Ashcraft

Every-loving and holy God, hallowed be your name. Your reign, 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. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE/WELCOMING GUESTS++

ANTHEM “Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child” (Trad.)

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 35.1–10

SERMON “Beyond Parsed”

Chad Tanaka Pack

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Jaci Lewis

To become a member of Middle Church, use the clergy/staff at the pulpit after worship.

OFFERERY/OFFERING “The Little Drummer Boy” (Katherine Kennicott Davis)

Place gift in bag • Donate at middlechurch.org/donate

DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION PRAYER

Jaci Lewis

From all that dwell below the skies / Let faith and hope with love arise.

***PRAYER CORNER***

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate

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 • SACRAMENT — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GOD’S IN THE MIDDLE OF IT • “Beyond Parsed” Chad Tanaka Pack, preacher • Isaiah 35.1-10 • Village Church for Children and Youth • Gospel Ensemble • Lighting the Advent Candles • Frog and Toad.

• BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION — on hiatus until spring.

• JOIN THE MOVEMENT — 10:30-10:45 AM • SACRAMENT — Learn about Middle membership.

• COMMUNITY HOUR — 10:45-11:30 AM • Social Hall — Share coffee and conversation.

• FREE LUNCH AT MIDDLE CHURCH — 11:15 AM-12:15 PM • Sanctuary — Fresh bread, savory pastas, and a variety of desserts.

• FREE MEAL AT MIDDLE CHURCH — 11:45 AM-12:45 PM • Social Hall — Enjoy a healthy meal that is nutritious and food pantry for clients and the community.

• JUST ARTS CAFE— GOD ON GUNS: AN ADVENT PERFORMANCE & CONVERSATION — 12:00-2:00 PM • Social Hall — Join us for the one-acct performance “15 Minutes” by students from the Professional Performing Arts School, followed by a panel discussion moderated by the Rev. Dr. Jacqi Lewis, with Team Moms, Emergency Aftercare, and Youth activists. FREE. A love offering will be taken to benefit the Revolutionary Love Conference.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

NEW ADVENTURES — 2:00-3:30 PM • 4th Fl Studio — Retired or just between jobs? Share time with friends.

• CREATIVE WRITING — Holiday break — January 16.

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

• SHABBAT SERVICES — 6:10-8:30 PM • Social Hall — TheShabbatNap.org — Worship

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 — NO PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP — 9:30-10:30 AM • SACRAMENT — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GOD’S IN THE MIDDLE OF IT • “Beyond Parsed” Chad Tanaka Pack, preacher • Isaiah 35.1-10 • Village Church for Children and Youth • Gospel Ensemble • Lighting the Advent Candles • Frog and Toad.

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

We-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: facebook.com/MiddleCollegeChurch

Middle Church Celebrations podcast: middlechurch.org/podcasts

DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY — This year we must give $87,000 by June 30, 2023 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 annual gift is an important part of getting there.

As of this printing, we have raised $329,804.24 in gifts and pledges. This puts us at 73.3% of our December 31st goal of $447,000.

During our annual Gift to Bring campaign, we are asking for pledges, recurring gifts, or one-time donations of $2, $5, $20, $50, $200, and $2,000. With your help we can make our goal and possibly exceed our fundraising goal. Please consider making a gift at middlechurch.org/donate or use the pledge form included in this bulletin.

In gratitude, Jacqi, Darren, and Middle Circle. Donate at middlechurch.org/donate.

Join us in the Social Hall — 9:30-10:30 AM • SACRAMENT — Learn about Middle membership.

CONGREGATIONAL HOLIDAY MEAL — 12:30-1:30 PM • Social Hall — All are invited to a special holiday meal and music in the Social Hall. Buy your copy of Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints (with a chapter on Jacqui Lewis!) from author Damón Akers.

There will be no Middle-Morning programming this Sunday.

• KIDS IN THE MIDDLE (K-4) AND MIDDLE (ADULT) — Attend Holiday Meal!

• YOUNG ADULTS SMALL GROUP — 10:45-11:30 AM • Social Hall — Join us in the Social Hall to decorate Christmas ornaments!

• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP — 9:30-10:30 AM • SACRAMENT — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GOD’S IN THE MIDDLE OF IT • “Beyond Parsed” Chad Tanaka Pack, preacher • Matthew 1.18-25 • Jerrese Johnson Gospel Choir • Lighting the Advent Candles.

• BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION — on hiatus until spring.

• JOIN THE MOVEMENT — 10:00-10:45 AM • SACRAMENT — Learn about Middle membership.

• CONGREGATIONAL HOLIDAY MEAL — 12:30-1:30 PM • Social Hall — All are invited to a special holiday meal and music in the Social Hall.

• SING, PLAY, MOVE: AN INTEGRATED MUSICAL EXPERIENCE (AGES 3-5) — 1:00-1:45 PM • Sanctuary — Play, sing, and move together in a curious and creative way using music and movement with our youth and UU Materials.

• EXPLORE NEWAA — 1:00-2:15 PM • 5th Fl Parlor — A new group for those in transition, out of seminary, or otherwise considering vocational ministry.
**MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH**

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – Senior Minister in Charge
Rev. Chad Tanaka Pack – Interim Exec. Minister for Care & Membership
Natalie Perkins – Digital Minister

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**CONSISTORY**

**ELDERS**
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Vickie Burns
Pete Grenfell
Darren Johnston

**CHAIR**
Gerald Lazore
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Claudia Slacik

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Edna Benitez
Lila Boyer
Pamela Edgar
Kelly Smith
Phyllistine Travis

**LOCAL DEACON**
Dennis Barton
Beth Ellor
Johanna Gospel
Karde Zaitsu-Heltck

Representatives to INTERSECTIONS
ELDR – Darja Brant
DEACON – Robert Perry

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**THIS WEEK: BEYOND PARCHED**

- What new path might God be calling you to travel? What resources would you need for that journey? Use a journal or sketchbook to capture your thoughts.
- How will you deepen your relationship with God in 2020 through the ministries of Middle Church? Perhaps you could participate in a small group. Or volunteer as an usher. Or set up a recurring donation. Include this question in your prayers during December.

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**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.

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**CHILDREN, GO WHERE I SEND THEE**

(African-American Traditional)

Children go where I send thee.

I'm gonna send the one by one,
One for the little bitty baby,
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children go where I send thee.

I'm gonna send thee two by two,
Two for Paul and Silas,
One for the little bitty baby,
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children go where I send thee.

I'm gonna send thee three by three,
Three for the Hebrew children,
Two for Paul and Silas,
One by the little bitty baby,
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children go where I send thee.

I'm gonna send thee four by four,
Four for the four that stood at the door,
Three for the Hebrew children,
Two for Paul and Silas,
One by the little bitty baby,
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.

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**THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE**

1. This lit-tele light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
2. Ev- 'ry where I go, through the night, I'm gon-na let it shine.
3. All through the mine, let it shine, I'm gon-na let it shine.

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**Deacon**

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.
Ivan Anderson
Vickie Burns
Pete Grenfell
Darren Johnston, CHAIR
Gerald Lazore
Hadiyah Morgan
Jeff Mummert
Claudia Slacik

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**Elder**

Edna Benitez
Lila Boyer
Pamela Edgar
Kelly Smith
Phyllistine Travis

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**Local Deacon**

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Karde Zaitsu-Heltck

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**Twitter**

@RevJacquiLewis