INVITATION TO WORSHIP

“Double Dutch” by Ruby Dee from My One Good Nerve

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

(Thomas O Chisholm; William M. Runyon)

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions, they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

REFRAIN

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

REFRAIN

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

REFRAIN

~ REFLECTING ~

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

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

Marte Samuelstuen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft
CALL TO PRAYER/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/ LORD’S PRAYER/CONGREGATIONAL AMEN

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

Dionne McClain-Freeney

ANTHEM “We Are The Ones” (Tituss Burgess)

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37.1–14 The People of God

SERMON “Proof of Life” Jacqui Lewis

~ RESPONDING ~

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Benjamin Perry

OFFERTORY/OFFERING “We Shall Overcome” (Tituss Burgess)

Madge Dietrich, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER Benjamin Perry

HYMN “We’ll Understand It Better By and By” (Charles Albert Tindley)

We are often tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day,
when the mists have rolled away,
We’ll understand it better by and by.

REFRAIN
By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
We’ll tell the story how we’ve overcome:
for we’ll understand it better by and by. (by and by)
We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands,
In our God our trust’s assured,
and according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by.

REFRAIN

Trials harsh on every hand,
and we cannot understand
All the ways that God will lead us
to that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God’s eye,
and we’ll follow till we die,
For we’ll understand it better by and by.

REFRAIN

BENEDICTION  Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION •

For complete credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleChurch.

THIS WEEK: PROOF OF LIFE

• In the midst of what feels like dried up life, in the midst of death, we are called to speak life into the world. Where do you find life? Signs of life?

LAST WEEK: IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

• How does God’s love look in the time of corona?

PRAYER CORNER  Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.
We are praying for you every day.
To make a prayer request, visit middlechurch.org/prayer-pastoral-care
Welcome to Middle Church

We are glad you are worshipping with us 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. Sign up for updates or weekly emails at middlechurch.org.

Videos and Podcasts — Worship music and sermon videos: youtube.com/MiddleChurch. Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch. Middle Church Celebrations podcast: middlechurch.org/podcasts.

Dear Middle Family — This year we must give $875,000 by June 30, 2020 in order to fund our ministries and programs. As you know, we originally set a goal to fund 50% of our budget by 2022. But as circumstances have shifted and our ministries have grown tremendously, we are called to reach this goal sooner—by 2021. We have no doubt that we can do this, but only with your help!

As of this printing, we have raised $556,357.82 in gifts and pledges. That puts us at 63.53% of our June 30th goal of $875,000!

This year’s offering is critical to our 2021 goal. To reach our FY2020 goal by June 30, 2020, can we count on you to give $20, $200, or $2,020 today? No gift is too small! A recurring $2 weekly or monthly contribution is a big help! You can donate online at middlechurch.org/donate or by texting [Amount] to 917-924-4666.

With deep appreciation, thank you for your generosity. We know that COVID-19 has inflicted incredible strain and uncertainty on many families. In this stressful time, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need help.

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate.

Middle Virtual Gatherings

We may be socially distanced, but spiritually we remain connected, trusting that the God who created and cares for us will guide our community through this crisis in love! We hope you’ll join us for the events listed below! And stay tuned—we add to this list as new programs become available. All events are listed in ET.

Sunday, March 29, 10:45 a.m.: Bible in the Middle
Sunday, March 29, 10:45 a.m.: Kids' Sunday Enrichment
Sunday, March 29, 11:45 a.m.: Worship Celebration
Monday, March 30, 8:30 a.m.: Morning Scripture and Prayer
Monday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.: Acting Class
Tuesday, March 31, 10:00 a.m.: Kids' Pajama Storytime
Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.: Leading From Within: Lenten Bible Study
Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.: How to Be an Antiracist Book Discussion
Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.: Heart & Soul Yoga Class
Thursday, April 2, 1:00 p.m.: New Adventures
Thursday, April 2, 2:00 p.m.: This Moment Action
Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m.: Kids' Dance Party!
Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.: Writing Group
Friday, April 3, 9:00 p.m.: Revolutionary Parenting in the Age of COVID-19
Sunday, April 5, 11:45 a.m.: Palm Sunday Worship Celebration
Sunday, April 5, 1:00 p.m.: Middle Out Loud

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. If you need help troubleshooting, visit https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/sections/200305593-Troubleshooting.

- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your intended meeting.

- Upon entering, confirm that you are in the right meeting.

- Please change your display name. Enter your Full Name, pronouns, and your city. i.e. "Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft (she/her, NYC)"

- Upon entering the meeting, please hit video, as we'd love to see you.

- Also, hit mute to avoid any audio issues. Unmute yourself when you'd like to weigh in on the conversation.

- Sometimes, the host of the meeting will mute and unmute everyone as the meeting requires.

- If you have a question related to the conversation but would prefer to just type it in, there is a "Chat" section on the Zoom video where you can type in a question. We’ll be checking that chatbox often to ensure we address all member comments before the meeting ends.

- Zoom participants will adhere to demonstrating Revolutionary Love at all times. If a participant’s behavior is deemed inappropriate by the meeting host, they will be removed. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to: harassment, threats, bigotry of any kind, and not identifying themself.

- For additional troubleshooting, see the sidebar.

- We are thrilled you are here and look forward to a wonderful time together.

Visit middlechurch.org for full details and the latest updates.
MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH IS ON LENAPE LAND ON TURTLE ISLAND.

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.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – Senior Minister in Charge
Rev. Benjamin Perry – Minister for Outreach and Media Strategy
Rev. Chad Tanaka Pack – Consulting Minister
Natalie Perkins – Digital Minister

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