Sunday Worship Celebration
April 5, 2020 • 11:45 AM • Palm/Passion Sunday

~ Gathering ~

Invitation to Worship

Introit

Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved and set me free,
I once was lost, but now I’m found,
was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come,
Twas grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

~ Reflecting ~

Announcements

Call to Prayer/Prayers of the People/
Lord’s Prayer/Congregational Amen

Meditation on “The Lord’s Prayer” by Albert Hay Malotte

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

Anthem

“What’s the Buzz?”

(Andrew Lloyd Weber; Tim Rice)

Michael Quattrone, Olive Demetrius, Village Chorus for Children and Youth

Scripture

Matthew 21.1–11

Monique Fortuné
SERMON  “Kingdom of the World -vs- Kingdom of God”
Jacqui Lewis and Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

~ RESPONDING ~

COMMUNION  The People of God

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink.
It can be bread and wine; crackers and grape juice; pancakes and coffee;
French toast and mimosas; a piece of fruit and water. Everyone can participate,
from the youngest to the oldest.
Jacqui Lewis will invite us to consecrate those ordinary elements with prayer,
and the words of institution. And then we will eat together and drink together,
communing with each other and with the Living God. You are welcome,
just as you are, to participate in this special ritual of Grace and Love.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT  Shanta Thake Kriegsmann

OFFERTORY/OFFERING  “Hosanna”  (Andrew Lloyd Weber; Tim Rice)
Jonathan Lucas, Michael Quattrone, Middle Church Choir,
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir
Donate at middlechurch.org/donate • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DEDICATION PRAYER  Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN  “Walk Together, Children”  (Trad.)
Walk together, children, Don’t you get weary,
Walk together, children, Don’t you get weary,
Walk together, children, Don’t you get weary,
There’s a great camp meeting in the promised land.
Pray together, children . . .
Sing together, children . . .

BENEDICTION  Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE  “Hosanna”  (Glenn Burleigh)
Middle Church Choir, Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION •
For complete credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleChurch.
THIS WEEK: KINGDOM OF THE WORLD VS. KIN-DOM OF GOD

- Holy Week is the climax in a contest between good and evil; generosity and greed; peace and violence. What lessons are there for you and your community today?
- How are you being the surprising one we’ve been waiting for to heal the world? What is your calling right now?

LAST 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?

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 $560,651.81 in gifts and pledges.
That puts us at 64% of our June 30th goal of $875,000!

This year’s offering is critical to our 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. All events are listed in ET.

**EVERY DAY at 3:00 p.m.: Daily Meditation with Anu Gupta

Sunday, April 5
- 10:45 am: Kids’ Sunday Enrichment
- 10:45 am: New Members Orientation (Rescheduled from 3/15)
- 11:45 am: PALM SUNDAY Worship Celebration
- 1:00 pm: Middle Out Loud
- 1:00 pm: How to Be an Antiracist Book Group Meeting IV

Monday, April 6
- 8:30 am: Morning Scripture and Prayer
- 6:30 pm: Acting Class

Tuesday, April 7
- 10:00 am: Kids’ Pajama Storytime
- 7:00 pm: Leading From Within: Lenten Bible Study

Thursday, April 9
- 1:00 pm: New Adventures
- 3:00 pm: This Moment Action
- 5:30 pm: Kids’ Dance Party!
- 6:30 pm: Writing Group
- 7:00 pm: MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Celebration

Friday, April 10
- 7:00 pm: GOOD FRIDAY Worship
- 9:00 pm: Revolutionary Parenting in the Age of COVID-19

Saturday, April 11
- 7:00 pm: In the Waiting Time: A Prayer Vigil for Grief

Sunday, April 12
- 9:00 am: Virtual Easter Egg Hunt
- 10:45 am: Kids’ Sunday Enrichment
- 11:45 am: EASTER SUNDAY Worship Celebration
- 1:00 pm: ¡Hablamos!
- 1:00 pm: Virtual Chat and Chew

Visit middlechurch.org for full details and the latest updates.
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 chat box 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.
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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**Consistory**

**Elders**

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

**Deacons**

Edna Benitez  
Lila Boyer  
Pamela Edgar  
Kelly Smith  
Phyllistine Travis

**Local Deacons**

Dennis Barton  
Beth Ellor  
Johanna Goepel  
Vincent Parham  
Kaede Zaitsu-Helck

**Representatives to Intersections**

Elder – Danita Branam  
Deacon – Robert Perry