SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION
APRIL 19, 2020 • 11:45 AM • EASTERTIDE • EARTH DAY

~ GATHERING ~

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

INTROIT  “In the Beginning”
(Shlomit Levi; arr. John Del Cueto)
Elizabeth Stanley, soloist

HYMN  “This Is My Song”
(Lloyd Stone; Jean Sibelius)
This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

~ REFLECTING ~

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALL TO PRAYER

Jacqui Lewis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  “O, Colored Earth”
(Dominick Vizioli, soloist • In-the-Middle Choir)
(Steve Heitzeg)

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  “By the Waters of Babylon” (in memoriam)  BETTY

ANTHEM  “Sound Over All Waters”  (John Greenleaf Whittier; Paul Halley)
from Missa Gaia
Theresa Thomason, soloist • Middle Church Choir

SCRIPTURE  Genesis 2.15–25  Celest Villanueva

SERMON  “Eve, Adam, and Mama Earth”  Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

~ RESPONDING ~

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT  Gabby Deveaux and Ophelia

OFFERTORY/ OFFERING  “Blue Green Hills” from Missa Gaia  (Kim Oler; arr. Paul Halley)
Middle Church Choir
Donate at middlechurch.org/donate • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DEDICATION PRAYER  Gabby Deveaux

HYMN  “God’s Got the Whole World”  (Trad.)
He’s got the whole world in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands.
She’s got the whole world in her hands …
They’ve got the whole world in their hands …
You’ve got the whole world in your hands …

BENEDICTION  Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

POSTLUDE  “I Am a Promise”  (Bill and Gloria Gaither; arr. John Del Cueto)
Village Chorus for Children and Youth

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleChurch.
**THIS WEEK: EVE, ADAM, AND MAMA EARTH**

- What would it take for you to imagine being on the other side of this moment?
- What does it mean to care for the Earth?
- What do you need to rethink, reread, or reimagine in order for us to move forward more justly?

**LAST WEEK: A SATURDAY KIND OF SUNDAY**

- In this time between the now and not-yet, what are you rising to?
- How does this moment make you want to use yourself and your resources?

**PRAYER CORNER**  *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*

Kelly Smith and family; Christina Fleming and family; Friends and family of Rev. Laura Cotrich; Cousin Brenda; Angel Rosado; Fern Siclari and family; Suressh Dianand.

*We are praying for all our Middle family every day.*

To make a prayer request, visit middlechurch.org/prayer-pastoral-care

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**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 $589,216.14 in gifts and pledges.*

That puts us at 67% 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.

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—in gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory  

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate.
MIDDLE VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

All events are listed in ET. Visit middlechurch.org for details and the latest updates.

Revolutionary Love Conference Schedule —
Thursday, April 23 to Sunday, April 26 we’ll be hosting the virtual Revolutionary Love Conference. And, in this moment, that radical love couldn’t be more desperately needed. COVID-19 is a virus that reveals the virulent nature of systemic racism and oppression in our nation and around the globe. The conversations we have now are crucial to transforming our country into the more perfect union we were promised.

You can read more about the incredible lineup of thought leaders, theologians and artists the conference website—and find a full schedule. And, if you’d like to join us, tickets are still available! For more information email Benjamin Perry.

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

Sunday, April 19
- 10:45 a.m.: Bible in the Middle
- 10:45 a.m.: Kids’ Sunday Enrichment
- 11:45 a.m.: Worship Celebration
- 1:00 p.m.: YOUTH Gathering
- 1:00 p.m.: Middle Out Loud
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner Party

Monday, April 20
- 8:30 p.m.: Morning Prayer and Scripture
- 6:00 p.m.: Pub Theology
- 6:30 p.m.: Acting Class

Tuesday, April 21
- 3:00 p.m.: Kids’ Pajama Storytime

Thursday, April 23
- 1:00 p.m.: New Adventures
- 3:00 p.m.: This Moment Action
- 5:30 p.m.: Kids’ Dance Party!
- 6:00 p.m.: Writing Group

Friday, April 24
- 9:00 p.m.: Revolutionary Parenting in the Time of COVID-19

Sunday, April 26
- 10:45 a.m.: Kids’ Sunday Enrichment
- 11:45 a.m.: Worship Celebration
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner Party
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.
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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