~ GATHERING ~

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Natalie Perkins

INTROIT
“Love Is Here to Stay”
(George Gershwin; Ira Gershwin)
Tituss Burgess, soloist

HYMN
“Eastertide Medley”
(Traditional)
Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder Thee.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on
No man can a hinder Thee.

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder Thee.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on
No man can a hinder Thee
No man can a hinder Thee
No man can a hinder Thee

In that great gettin’ up mornin’
Fare thee well, fare thee well
In that great gettin’ up mornin’
Fare thee well, fare thee well

In that great gettin’ up mornin’
Fare thee well, fare thee well
In that great gettin’ up mornin’
Fare thee well, fare thee well

Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the praises of the Lord
Rise among us
Let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the joy of the Lord
Rise among us
Let it rise.
Oh, let it rise
Oh, let it rise
Oh, let it rise
Oh, let it rise.

~ REFLECTING ~

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

“Siyahamba”
Village Chorus for Children and Youth

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
“You’re My Joy”
(Tituss Burgess)

Kristina Nicole Miller, soloist
Rod Rodgers Dance Company • Kim Grier, choreographer

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
“I’ll Take You There”
(Albertis Isbell)

Shari Gill, soloist • Dionne McClain-Freeney and the Remote Band

ANTHEM
“Beautiful City”
(Stephen Schwartz)

Branch Woodman, soloist

SCRIPTURE
1 John 4.16–17
Kaliswa Brewster

SERMON
“Where Love Lives”
Jacqui Lewis

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT
Darren Johnston
~ RESPONDING ~

OFFERTORY “Love Is an Action” 
(Tituss Burgess)
Tituss Burgess, soloist
Donate at middlechurch.org/donate • Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DEDICATION PRAYER
Edna Benitez

HYMN “We Shall Overcome” 
(Trad.)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Middle Church Choir • Madge Dietrich, soloist
We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome someday

BENEDICTION
Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE “Nina Cried Power” 
(Andrew Hozier-Byrne; Mavis Staples)
All Souls Choir • Rochelle Rice and Shacara Rogers-West, soloists

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleChurch.

THIS WEEK: WHERE LOVE LIVES

• Get educated about the way COVID-19 is ravaging the poor and Black and Brown people. Follow the Poor People’s Campaign/William Barber, Ruby Sales, and Traci Blackmon.

• Read and Write: Read Amos, Chapter 5, The Message version, every day for the next week. Each day after reading, write a letter demanding a response to COVID-19 that acknowledges the poor, Black and Brown people, the essential workers who are predominantly female and Black.
  • Your senators
  • Your congress person
  • The governor of your state
  • The mayor your city/town
  • Your local newspaper

• Do small acts of self and neighborly love.
  • Buy a book of stamps from the USPS
  • Put your name and phone number on your neighbors’ doors so they can access you in case of emergency
  • Put your mask on, go outside for fresh air every day, keeping your distance.
  • Call somebody you love, let them hear your voice, every day
LAST 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?

PRAYER CORNER  Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.
Lilly Bridgers and family; Kelly Smith and family; Christina Fleming and family.
We are praying for all our Middle family 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 $598,968.14 in gifts and pledges.
That puts us at 68% 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**

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 26
- 10:45 a.m.: Bible in the Middle
- 10:45 a.m.: Kids’ Sunday Enrichment
- 11:45 a.m.: Worship Celebration
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner Party

Monday, April 27,
- 8:30 p.m.: Morning Prayer and Scripture
- 6:30 p.m.: Acting Class
- 7:00 p.m.: Dance Your Way to Freedom

Tuesday, April 28
- 3:00 p.m.: Kids’ Pajama Storytime
- 6:30 p.m.: Taking the Violent White Supremacist Movement to Court

Thursday, April 30
- 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, May 1
- 9:00 p.m.: Revolutionary Parenting in the Time of COVID-19

Sunday, May 3
- 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.: Virtual Chat & Chew
- 1:00 p.m.: Middle Out Loud
- 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.

Virtual Programs from Our Community Partners

Virtual AA meetings can be found here.

Downtown Meditation offers weekly chances to meditate:

- Generating Self Compassion, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Sitting and Dharma Talk, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- "The Five Strengths" of Buddhism," Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
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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Vickie Burns  Pamela Edgar
Petre Grenfell  Kelly Smith
Darren Johnston  Phyllistine Travis
Gerald Lazore
Hadaryah Morgan
Jeff Mummert
Claudia Slacik

DEACONS

CHAIR

LOCAL DEACONS

DEACON – Robert Perry

Elders to INTERSECTIONS

ELDER – Danita Branam