INVITATION TO WORSHIP

HYMN

“God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command”

Allison Sniffin, organ and French horn

God of the ages, who with sure command
brought forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
God, set our path toward human liberty;
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay—
your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

Refresh your people on life’s toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
With truth and love guide us through error’s maze,
and we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

“Siyahamba”

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Middle Church Choir

Elise Tiralli

Natalie Perkins

Jacqui Lewis
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

ANTHEM  “Walk with Me”  (Leon C. Roberts)
In-the-Middle Choir

SCRIPTURE  Acts 17.22–28  Kaliswa Brewster

SERMON  “Searching for God”  Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

~ RESPONDING ~

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT  Adrienne Hurd

OFFERTORY  “Lean on Me”  (Bill Withers)
Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

HYMN  “Joy”  (Kirk Franklin)
Gospel Ensemble

Joy, joy, God’s great joy
Joy, joy, down in my soul
Sweet, beautiful, soul-saving joy
Oh, joy, joy in my soul

BENEDICTION  Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

POSTLUDE  Excerpt from “Hymn to Freedom”  (Oscar Peterson, arr. Mons Leidvin Takle)
Allison Sniffin, organ

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleChurch.
THIS WEEK: SEARCHING FOR GOD

- Where are we finding/looking for God? What have we wrongly constructed and worshipped as God?
- God is not far from us because “we too are God’s offspring.” How might we live differently as God’s offspring? What does it mean to be offspring of God?

LAST WEEK: A BLACK FEMINIST CONVERSATION ON ‘MOTHERING’ THE WORLD TO PEACE

No matter your ethnicity or gender, become a student of Black Feminist thought:
- Consider getting a copy of Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines (edited by Alexis Pauline Gumbs). Follow her @alexispauline

No matter your circumstance: Be the Change!
- Donate at middlechurch.org/donate. Your dollars power our work to dismantle systems and structures dangerous to people of color, to women, and the LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Join our movement at middlechurch.org/join.

PRAYER CORNER  Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.
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 — Our June 30, 2020 deadline is swiftly approaching! In order to fund our ministries and programs, and continue crucial justice work, we must raise $875,000. We have no doubt that we can do this, but only with your help!

As of this printing, we have raised $634,461.14 in gifts and pledges.
That puts us at 72.5% of our goal!

COVID-19 has brought unbelievable strain. But we are grateful to every single person who is digging deep to help us sustain and further Middle’s ministry. No gift is too small! A recurring $2 weekly or monthly contribution of $20, $200, or $2020 is a huge help! You can donate online at middlechurch.org/donate or by texting [Amount] to 917-924-4666.

Middle, we deeply appreciate you and all that you do, thank you for your generosity. And 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.
**EVERY DAY at 3:00 p.m.: Daily Meditation with Anu Gupta**

**Sunday, May 17**
- 10:45 a.m.: New Members Meeting
- 10:45 a.m.: Bible in the Middle
- 10:45 a.m.: Kids' Sunday Enrichment
- 11:45 a.m.: Worship Celebration
- 5:00 p.m.: Middle Game Night
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner Party

**Monday, May 18**
- 8:30 a.m.: Morning Prayer
- 7:00 p.m.: Grief Group: Deaths from COVID-19

**Tuesday, May 19**
- 10:15 a.m.: Kids' Storytime
- 7:00 p.m.: Jesus and the Disinherited Book Group

**Thursday, May 21**
- 1:00 p.m.: New Adventures
- 6:30 p.m.: Writing Group

**Sunday, May 24**
- 10:00 a.m.: Revolutionary Parenting
- 10:45 a.m.: Kids' Sunday Enrichment
- 10:45 a.m.: Bible in the Middle
- 11:45 a.m.: Worship Celebration
- 1:00 p.m.: Young Adults Small Group
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner Party

**Monday, May 25**
- MEMORIAL DAY — NO PROGRAMMING
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 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.