

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

JUNE 14, 2020 • 11:45 AM • JUNETEENTH

~ GATHERING ~

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

"I Love the Lord"

(Richard Smallwood)

I love the Lord,
Who heard my cry
And pitied ev'ry groan.
Long as I live,
While troubles rise
I'll hasten to God's throne.

~ REFLECTING ~

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Monique Fortuné

"Siyahamba"

(South African Traditional Song)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE "No Woman, No Cry"

(Bob Marley)

Ivan Anderson, soloist

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.**

"Special Amen"

(John Del Cueto)

John Del Cueto, soloist

PASSING OF THE PEACE



ANTHEM "Come Sunday" (Edward Kennedy Ellington)
Charles S. Brown, soloist • Dancers – Malcolm-x Betts, Jonathan Gonzalez,
Ishmael Houston-Jones, Johnnie Cruise Mercer, Thomas Tyger Moore

SCRIPTURE Genesis 18.1–2, 9–15, 21.1–3 Marlene Fox

SERMON "Too Late to Laugh?" Michael Livingston

~ RESPONDING ~

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Antwayn Hopper

OFFERTORY "God Made Me" (Jules Bartholomew)
Gospel Ensemble

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate
Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch
or Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DEDICATION PRAYER Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (Traditional)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna live so God can use me,
Anywhere Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna work so God can use me,
Anywhere Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me ...
I'm gonna sing so God can use me ...

BENEDICTION Jacqui Lewis



"I Love the Lord, He Heard My Cry," words and music by Richard Smallwood © 1990 Century Oak/Richwood Music; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by Permission. CCLI License #11247152

Guest Preacher Rev. Michael Livingston currently serves as the Interim Senior Minister for The Riverside Church in the City of New York. Working in congregational ministry has always been close to Michael's heart, whether at Riverside or when he was first starting out in Los Angeles. Immediately prior to Riverside, Michael worked with Interfaith Worker Justice in Washington, D.C., advocating for underpaid workers. Before that, he spent the middle years of his ministry in executive leadership in the context of deep ecumenical and interfaith engagement with the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and the National Council of Churches (NCC). He served as the President of the NCC 2006–2007. Michael also spent fourteen years in graduate theological education at Princeton Theological Seminary as the Campus Pastor in Miller Chapel, which provided a strong foundational knowledge for a life in ministry. Pastoral and prophetic preaching, small group encounters, pastoral care and counseling, were the disciplines and practices that shaped Michael's work in that diverse and vibrant community. Throughout it all, Michael believes there are individuals whose lives beg for the transformation that can come from an encounter with the living God, and that congregations and people of faith can make a difference as incubators for a radical love that grows strong seeking peace through justice.



THIS WEEK: TOO LATE TO LAUGH?

- We're in a moment of sacred space between the divine and human, between divine promise and human possibility, between heaven and earth, between what can be and what is. Can we make democracy real? Can the news of freedom, though late, be true? Can we laugh like Sarah at the promises of God and give birth to our hope in every generation?

LAST WEEK: WHO ARE WE; WHOSE ARE WE

- What does this sermon call you to be and do in the matter of Black lives?
- Learn about ways you can take action at [10 Ways to Fight for an Antiracist World](#).
- Register for the master class, [The Call of This Moment: An Anti-Racism Workshop with Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis](#) on June 17 and 18.

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

Marion Stern, Ada's Family, Erica Cardwell's father.

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](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleChurch).
Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: [facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.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 \$674,407.14 in gifts and pledges.
That puts us at 77% of our goal!**

COVID-19 has brought unbelievable challenges. 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 make a donation online at middlechurch.org/donate or through Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch 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.

The Call of this Moment

**Attend an Antiracism
Master Class with
Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Ph.D**

**June 17 + 18
7:00 - 8:30 PM ET**

Now more than ever we need an antiracist movement in our country. Each of us has the power to change white supremacy's toxic legacy.

Join Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis for a special two-part Master Class: The Call of This Moment: An Anti-Racism Workshop. Because so many of our societal ills stem from unexamined racism, Jacqui will lead participants through an exploration of the intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics of race, racism, privilege and implicit/explicit bias in culture, in our lives and in the organizations to which we belong.

Though race is a social construct, American racism is the very real and toxic container in which all of our interactions occur. We who want a more just and loving world must gift ourselves the tools to be anti-racist leaders whether we are parents, teachers, students, social workers, artists, activists, or in the corporate world. This is a master class for ANYONE who wants to contribute to healing our country in large and small ways.

Tickets \$20 • Register [HERE](#)

MIDDLE VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

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

Registration for all programming ends 1 hour before the event begins, so be sure to RSVP!

EVERY DAY: Prayer Phone: Call 212-477-0666 and press 3 for English or press 4 for Spanish to hear a weekly prayer, scripture, and reflection from a Middle pastor. Updated Monday, 8:30 a.m.

EVERY DAY at 3:00 p.m.: [Daily Meditation with Anu Gupta](#)

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:45 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Juneteenth Worship Celebration](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Virtual Chat and Chew](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 15

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Grief Gathering](#)

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

- 10:15 a.m.: [Kids Storytime](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

- 7:00 p.m.: [The Call of This Moment Antiracism Workshop](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [The Call of This Moment Antiracism Workshop](#)

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

- 12:00 p.m.: [Juneteenth Prayer Vigil](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Juneteenth Now: Get Us Free!](#)

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

- 10:00 a.m.: [Poor People's Campaign Virtual Assembly and March on Washington](#)

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

- 10:30 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 and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [YOUTH Small Group Meeting](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir Concert](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Gospel Choir Concert Watch Party](#)



Join a star-studded artistic uprising to celebrate Juneteenth and raise money for Middle Church!



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 themselves.
- For additional troubleshooting, see the sidebar.
- We are thrilled you are here and look forward to a wonderful time together.

TROUBLESHOOTING FAQ

Having trouble with the livestream or Zoom call? Try one (or all) of these tricks to see if it fixes the problem.



REFRESH THE PAGE



CHANGE THE VIDEO QUALITY IN THE VIDEO SETTINGS



PAUSE THE STREAM AND WATCH ON A DELAY

And, make sure you've powered down your device recently!
As Anne Lamott says, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

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. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Exec. Minister for Congregational Life, Care, & Movement Building*

Rev. Marlene Fox – *Exec. Minister for Operations, Stewardship, & Finance*

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Minister for Outreach and Media Strategy*

Natalie Perkins – *Digital Minister*

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