

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 2, 2020 • 11:45 AM • THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

(D. Schutte)

Dionne McClain-Freeney

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, If You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them —
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them —
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS

• REFLECTING •

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Marlene Fox

"But Who May Abide"

(G. F. Handel)

Choreography by Mark Dendy • Middle Dancers

Madge Dietrich, Deborah Berg-McCarthy, Tina Owens, Ivan Anderson, soloists
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.**

CONGREGATIONAL AMEN

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The People of God

ANTHEM

"One of Us"

(Eric Bazilian, arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney)

Paul Chernosky, Andreas Vaagt, Tina Cernero, Tina Owens,
Miyuki Habiro, ensemble; Jana Quigley, lead vocalist

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32.22–31

Graham Bridgeman

SERMON

"Wrestling and the Unknown"

Graham Bridgeman

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Darren Johnston and Jhanay Williams

OFFERTORY “A Change Is Gonna Come” (Sam Cooke)
Cory Gibson, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER Jacqui Lewis

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.

You will be invited 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.

HYMN “Know I’ve Been Changed” (Trad. Spiritual; arr. John Del Cueto/
Queer Black Men at Middle Dionne McClain-Freeney)

I know I’ve been changed, I know I’ve been changed
I know I’ve been changed –
the angels in heaven done signed my name.

CHORUS

Know I’ve been changed, know I’ve been changed
Know I’ve been changed, know I’ve been changed
Know I’ve been changed, know I’ve been changed
Angels in heaven done signed my name.

If you don’t believe that I’ve been redeemed,
Angels in heaven done signed my name
Then follow me down to the Jordan stream,
Angels in heaven done signed my name

CHORUS

Stepped in the water, the water was cold,
Angels in heaven done signed my name

It chilled my body, but not my soul
Angels in heaven done signed my name.

CHORUS

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit [YouTube.com/MiddleChurch](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleChurch).

THIS WEEK: WRESTLING AND THE UNKNOWN.

- Are there situations or relationships in your life where you have behaved like Jacob? How have they been shaped by fear, self-reliance, or a need to understand things on your own terms?
 - How would your approach toward accountability change if you leaned into the transformative promise and faithfulness of God's vision for you?
-

LAST WEEK: LIKE BIRDS OF A FEATHER . . .

- How did today's sermon speak to what love looks like in these times?
- How does it inspire your life of faith and activism?
- What is one take away or learning you might share with others?

PRAYER CORNER *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*
Kelly Wade; our Middle family.

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

RECEIVE COMMUNION AT MIDDLE

We are committed to offering communion in a way that protects the safety of everyone involved.



The first Sunday each month, join us and receive communion on the steps:
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.*
*canceled in the event of rain

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— We are so grateful to each and every one of you for sticking with us through these uncertain times! While we tally up our totals for this fiscal year, we are continuing to move toward our vision for 2021 and are truly grateful to each of you for your continued love and support.

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 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.**

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 at our **prayer and pastoral care portal**.

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory Donate at middlechurch.org/donate.

If you've recently joined our multi-everything community, the next step is attending a

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

SUN, AUGUST 9 OR WED, AUGUST 12
10:45 AM EDT 7:00 PM EDT

Register at bit.ly/MCC-members

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 4 for English or press 5 for Spanish to hear a weekly prayer, scripture, and reflection from a Middle pastor. Updated Mondays, 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 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.: [Communion on the Steps \(cancelled in the event of rain\)](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Roundtable, Part 2](#)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

- 7:00 p.m.: [Heart & Soul](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Do the Write Thing](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

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



Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET
July 29, August 5 & 12

Explore the power of words journaling with Monique Fortuné. Together, we'll explore how writing helps us connect to necessary self-expression, hope and healing in the time of pandemic.

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

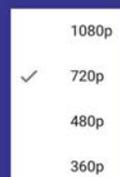
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your 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

- [AA Meetings](#) can be found here.
- **Downtown Meditation** offers online [Wednesday Dharma Talk and Sitting at 7:00 pm](#)

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 – *Director of Digital Ministry*

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CONSISTORY

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