

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 9, 2020 • 11:45 AM • THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Sanctuary”

(Scruggs, Thompson; arr. West Angeles COGIC)

Traditional Gospel Ensemble • Harry Clerk and Madge Dietrich, leads

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
And with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Mold me — what you want me to be.

Yes, yes to your will;
Yes, yes to your way;
Yes, every day, Yes, I'll obey!

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Elise Tiralli

“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

Ben Perry

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Ben Perry

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

The People of God

ANTHEM

"Spark of Creation"

(Stephen Schwartz)

Allison Mickelson, soloist

SCRIPTURE

John 9.1–7

Marlene Fox

SERMON

"You Betta Werq"

Marlene Fox

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Paul Devlin

OFFERTORY

"Available to You"

(C. Moody, Jr.)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Ailah Inaba, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Monique Fortuné

HYMN

"We Are Called"

(David Haas)

Come, live in the light
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the Kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God

REFRAIN

We are called to work for justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God!

Come, open your heart
Show mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so hatred and blindness will be no more

REFRAIN

Sing, sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love

REFRAIN

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

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

THIS WEEK: YOU BETTA WERQ

- 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?

LAST 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?

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

The family of Jamie Samuelsen; The family of Nedene Simon; Jamia Wilson; Chloe Richards.
We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

TO MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST, request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit middlechurch.org/prayer

PRAYER PHONE: Call 212-477-0666 at any time 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.

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 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](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

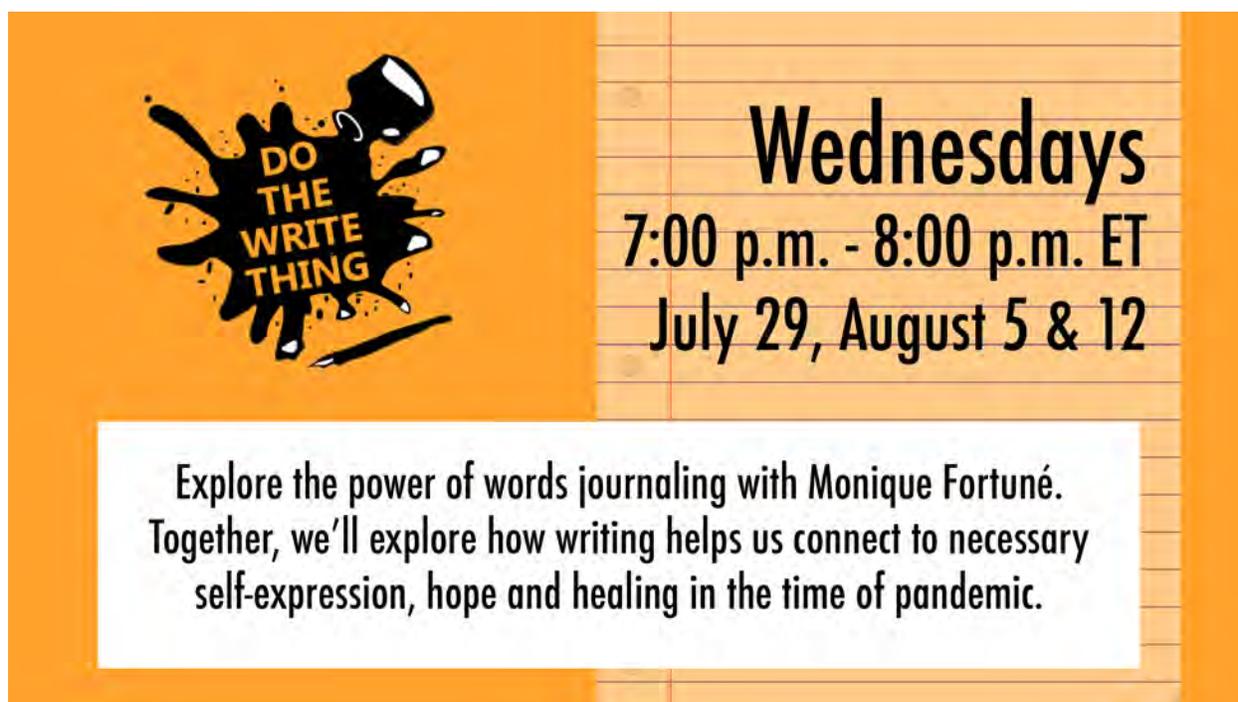
- 7:00 p.m.: [Do the Write Thing](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [New Members Gathering](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 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.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)



DO THE WRITE THING

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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Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

CONSISTORY

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