

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 23, 2020 • 11:45 AM • THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Come and Go to That Land”

(Trad.)

Come and go to that land, come and go to that land,
Come and go to that land where I’m bound.
Come and go to that land, come and go to that land,
Come and go to that land where I’m bound.

No more hatred in that land, no more hatred in that land,
No more hatred in that land where I’m bound.
No more hatred in that land, no more hatred in that land,
No more hatred in that land where I’m bound.

Come and go to that land, come and go to that land,
Come and go to that land where I’m bound.
Come and go to that land, come and go to that land,
Come and go to that land where I’m bound.

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

“Siyahamba”

Wesley Rowell
(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

Ashley Gonzalez

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

John Del Cueto

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"I'm Free"

(Jeff Blumenkrantz)

Allison Mickelson, soloist • Richard Carsey, accompanist

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 4.23–27

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

SERMON

"Prophets of Imagination"

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Marlene Fox

OFFERTORY

"Ain't It Good" from *Children of Eden*

(Stephen Schwartz)

Shari Gill, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Marlene Fox

HYMN

"We've Come This Far by Faith"

(Albert A. Goodson)

We've come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord;
Trusting in God's holy word,
God never failed me yet.
Oh— can't turn around,
We've come this far by faith!

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith” Text: Albert A Goodson, © 1965, 1993, Manna Music, Inc. From the *African American Heritage Hymnal*, Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-72559.

THIS WEEK: PROPHETS OF IMAGINATION

- 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: WE ARE ONE

- How can we stay focused on faith, hope, and love when there is so much trouble in the world?
- What can you do right now to create unity and harmony for yourself, your kindred, and not so kindred?

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

Gloria Cunningham Burgess; Jacqui Lewis; The people of Hong Kong, my family members there, and those advocating for human rights in the midst of Beijing’s anti-democracy crackdown. 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.



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

NEXT COMMUNION — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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— Fiscal Year 2021 is in full swing! Even in this time of uncertainty, we hope that you are encouraged that our community can band together and do amazing things! This year will be no different. With our annual programming, and newly created **Cancel Rent/Mortgage Program** and **Black Lives Matter Fund**, we are ready and excited to meet the needs of our community.

Our current budget requires \$900,000 in congregational giving by June 30, 2021 in order to fund our ministries and programs. We have no doubt that we can do this, but only with your help! **As of this printing, we have raised \$282,319.92** (\$85,315.48 in actuals; \$197,004.44 in recurring commitments). That puts us at **31.4%** of our June 30th goal of \$900,000!

This year's offering is critical to our vision and ministry. 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.**

Middle family, we are so grateful to you for your love and generous spirit. It is because of you that we can make change that heals souls and the world. We know that this year has posed unbelievable stress for many, and we're here for you if you need help.

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



The Call Within

**Dismantling Racism
from the Inside Out**
with Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Ph.D.

[CLICK HERE to register](#)

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 23

- 10:00 a.m.: [Revolutionary Parenting](#)
- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- 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](#)

Join the Weekly Chat & Chew

A weekly opportunity to see each others' faces and talk about the sermon.



Link at bit.ly/middle-talk

Every Sunday, 1:00 p.m. ET

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

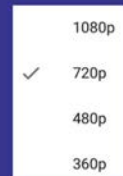
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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