

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 • 11:45 AM • THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Natalie Perkins

**HYMN**

“O for a World”

(Miriam Therese Winter; Carl G. Glaser)

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

• REFLECTING •

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marlene Fox

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER**

Marlene Fox

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**

Gospel Ensemble

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**ANTHEM** "Up to the Mountain" (Patty Griffin)  
Madge Dietrich, voice and guitar

**SCRIPTURE** Exodus 12.1–13 Ashley Gonzalez

**SERMON** "Love Your Intuition" Ashley Gonzalez

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT** Sandra Santana

**OFFERTORY** "Gloria" (Juan Luis Guerra)  
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Riqi Velez, soloist

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

**DEDICATION PRAYER** Natalie Perkins

**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** "Over My Head" (Traditional)

Over my head, I hear music in the air  
Over my head, I hear music in the air  
Over my head, I hear music in the air  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear singing in the air...

Over my head, I see freedom in the air...

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

**THIS WEEK: LOVE YOUR INTUITION**

- So often God’s message is not heard through reason.
- When the world’s laws are not in line with God’s laws our intuition tells us that which has been codified is not of God.
- Contrary to what feels to be true, I do not believe our hearts are always, or even most times, in tension with the will of God.

**LAST WEEK: BEING WOKE**

*I put on the love of the Lord, And his members are with him,  
And I am raised up by them, and he loves me. —Ode of Solomon 3.1–2*

- What does it look like to be accepted in your communities?
- What if every day we recommitted ourselves to putting on the love of the Lord, the compassion of the Lord?

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

Beverly Riley and neighbor Dee; Gloria Cunningham Burgess; Amanda Ashcraft; Wynona McCants; The Mighty Thor. 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](https://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 — TODAY! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

# Welcome to Middle Church

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**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](http://middlechurch.org).

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**VIDEOS AND PODCASTS** — Worship music and sermon videos: [youtube.com/MiddleChurch](https://youtube.com/MiddleChurch).  
Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: [facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch).  
Middle Church Celebrations podcast: [middlechurch.org/podcasts](http://middlechurch.org/podcasts).

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**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 **Middle Collegiate Church 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 \$303,584** (\$112,105 actuals; \$191,478 recurring commitments). That puts us at **33.7%** of our June 30th goal of \$900,000!

**We are THRILLED to share that a donor has made a \$50,000 pledge match to Middle Church, if we—the congregation— can match it in new cash and pledges by December 2020.** Simply put, we need to raise \$50,000 of our annual goal in NEW recurring donations and pledges by **December 1, 2020** in order to receive this wonderful gift! This year's offering is critical to our vision and ministry. Can we count on you to make a pledge today? A weekly pledge of \$25 becomes an offering of \$1,200 for the year! No gift is too small. **Please make your donation online at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://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](http://middlechurch.org/donate).

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**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](http://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, SEPTEMBER 6

- 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.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Day of Action \(On Middle steps, communion served\)](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**LABOR DAY—MIDDLE STAFF HOLIDAY**

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [New Members Gathering](#)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 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 Party](#)

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

## NEW MEMBER GATHERING

**WED, SEPT 9  
7:00 PM EDT**

OR

**SUN, SEPT 13  
10:45 AM EDT**

**Register at [bit.ly/MCC-members](http://bit.ly/MCC-members)**

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## 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."

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## 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](#)

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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH IS ON LENAPE LAND ON TURTLE ISLAND.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

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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.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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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*

SANCTUARY 112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.)

OFFICE 50 East 7th Street  
New York, NY 10003

TELEPHONE 212-477-0666

CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318

E-MAIL [middleinfo@middlechurch.org](mailto:middleinfo@middlechurch.org)

WEBSITE [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org)

[Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

[Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)

[YouTube.com/MiddleChurch](https://YouTube.com/MiddleChurch)

[Instagram.com/middlechurch](https://Instagram.com/middlechurch)

[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://Instagram.com/revjacquilewis)

[Twitter.com/middlechurch](https://Twitter.com/middlechurch)

[Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis](https://Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis)

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#### CONSISTORY

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Darren Johnston CHAIR

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