

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 • 11:45 AM • THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**HYMN**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

(Doris M. Akers)

Lead me, guide me along the way,  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

• 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**

Natalie Perkins

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

Natalie Perkins

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

Middle Church Choir

**ANTHEM** "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free" (B. Taylor)  
Rod Rodgers Dance Company • Alex Bertrand, soloist

**SCRIPTURE** Exodus 14.19–31 Gloria Moy

**SERMON** "Love Disrupts the Oppressive Wheel" Ben Perry

### • RESPONDING •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT** Elise Tiralli

**OFFERTORY** "Love in Any Language" (J. Mays; J. Mohr)  
Middle Church Choir • Branch Woodman, soloist

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

**DEDICATION PRAYER** Marlene Fox

**HYMN** "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" (Traditional)

I want Jesus to walk with me,  
I want Jesus to walk with me,  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me,  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me,  
When the shades of night are falling,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**BENEDICTION** Jacqui Lewis

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

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"Lead Me, Guide Me" Copyright © 1953, Doris M. Akers. All rights admin. by Unichappell Music, Inc.

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## THIS WEEK: LOVE DISRUPTS THE OPPRESSIVE WHEEL

God does not want anyone to die.

However, sometimes evil cannot be reformed and must be shattered.

- How is God calling us to trust Her in this moment?
- How is She showing us a path to the promised land that does not require violence?

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## LAST 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.

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

Beverly Riley and neighbor Dee; Gloria Cunningham Burgess; Wynona McCants; Amanda Ashcraft. 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](http://middlechurch.org/prayer).

# Join the Weekly Chat & Chew

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



Link at [bit.ly/middle-talk](https://bit.ly/middle-talk)

# Every Sunday, 1:00 p.m. ET

# 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 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](#)

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Freedom Lab 1: Democratic Participation & Voting in Troubled Times](#)

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 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 Our Middle Church Freedom Labs

### Democratic Participation & Voting in Troubled Times

September 17 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

Better understand voter suppression, and get the tools you need for voting & census!



Learn more & RSVP: [bit.ly/freedom-labs](http://bit.ly/freedom-labs)

### Understanding the Battle for the Soul of the Nation

October 1 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

What does working towards a Beloved Community imply for partisan political strategy?



middle church

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## MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

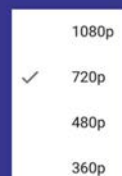
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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

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

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#### CONSISTORY

##### ELDERS

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Ivan Anderson

Vickie Burns

Pete Grenfell

Darren Johnston CHAIR

Gerald Lazore

Hadaryah Morgan

Jeff Mummert

Claudia Slacik

Shanta Thake

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Pamela Edgar

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Johanna Goepel

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DEACON – Robert Perry