

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

OCTOBER 4, 2020 • 11:45 AM • HOMECOMING: HOME IS HERE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

(Dan Schutte)

Singers: Linda Doria, Shannon Navarro, Natalie Perkins, Ben Perry, Dan Smith

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?

REFRAIN 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?

REFRAIN

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
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

• REFLECTING •

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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

Riqi Velez

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sandrine Blomstedt and Middle Families

ANTHEM

"Awesome God"

(Shawn Brown)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20.2–4, 7–9, 12–20

Middle Church Staff

SERMON

"Ten Commandments to Love By"

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

The People of God

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink. 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.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Elizabeth Stanley

OFFERTORY “We Are the World 25 for Haiti” (Michael Jackson; Lionel Richie)
Middle Church Choir • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir
• Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Ben Perry

HYMN “We Are the World” (Lionel Richie; Michael Jackson)

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

**Join us online or in person at 1:00 p.m. for
[Home Is Here: Homecoming 2020](#)**

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

“**Here I Am, Lord**” Words and Music: Dan Schutte Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“**We Are the World 25 for Haiti**”

Words and Music by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. Choral Arrangement by Roger Emerson. Additional Vocal Arrangements by Dionne McClain-Freeney. Additional Arrangements & Audio Production: Dionne McClain-Freeney. Audio Engineer: Casual-T for Flatnose Productions. Media Production & Video Production: Jeff Berman

Musicians • BAASSIK: Bass guitar, Dionne McClain-Freeney: Keyboards, Jonathon Peretz: Drums, Jeremy Price: Hammond organ, Allison Sniffin: Organ

Guest Artists • Madge Dietrich, Shari Gill, Matthew Johnson Harris, Samantha Waite, Blanche Wazelle, Tommy Wazelle

Middle Church Choir • Tami Petty, Director; Alvin Crawford, Beth Hatton, Robert Arthur Hughes, Joslyn King, Allison Mickelson Nedra Neal, Mark Johnson Rehnstrom, Wesley Rowell, Ann Wazelle, Branch Woodman

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • John Del Cueto, Director; Matthew Ackerman, Don Arrington, Tina Cernero, Jennifer Wright Cook, Linda Doria, Fabienne Doucet, Lisa Fenger, Rochelle Green, Elaine Guardo, Miyuki Habiro, Kaede Helck, Ailah Inaba, Svetlana Jovanovic, Karen Katz, Carol Kissling, Kendra Krueger, Janet Laing, Elsa Lechner, Deborah Berg McCarthy, Tony Moran, Mary Morse, Gloria Moy, Patrick Mulcahy, Zainab Musa, Toshiko Noguchi, Tina Owens, Jim Pender, Geoffrey Perry, Anne-Francoise Potterat, Sandra Santana, Andreas Vaagt, Riqi Velez, Cornelia Zelter

Village Chorus for Children and Youth • John Del Cueto, Director; Tomoki Harada, Caelyn Osbern

THIS WEEK: TEN COMMANDMENTS TO LOVE BY

- How does the law of Love matter to how we live in Middle Church Community—our home?
- This nation is our home, as well. What does an ethic of love have to say to about our politics?
- What's love got to do with how you live at home with your family, roommates, partner, children . . . ?

LAST WEEK: THE PURPOSE OF POWER

God's power is at work in us.

- What are we going to do with the power in our hands?
- How can we leverage our power for the good of humanity?

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

Andre Charlton; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, Raider Nation, Janna Myers, Superman and Iron Man. 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.

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— 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 \$358,949** (\$184,346 actuals; \$174,603 recurring commitments). That puts us at **39.9%** 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 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.



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, OCTOBER 4

*****HOMECOMING*****

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Home Is Here: Homecoming 2020](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 7:00 p.m.: [Introduction to the Hebrew Bible \(Old Testament\)](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Theology & Bible Study](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 7:00 p.m.: [The Call Within: Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out, Night One](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Do the Write Thing](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [The Call Within: Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out, Night Two](#)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [New Members Gathering](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Middle YOUTH](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

The Call Within:
Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out
Oct. 7 & 8 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

FEATURING

Kaitlin Curtice **Mark Charles** **V (form. Eve Ensler)**

HOSTED BY
Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Ph.D.

Info & Tickets: bit.ly/the-call-within

New 2020 Fall Programs

CLICK
HERE

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

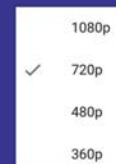
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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