

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

OCTOBER 11, 2020 • 11:45 AM • GOD IS . . . IN THE MIDDLE OF IT
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN

“Eres Tú”

(Juan Carlos Calderón; arr. John Del Cueto)

Como una promesa, eres tú, eres tú
Como una mañana de verano
Como una sonrisa, eres tú, eres tú
Así, así, eres tú

Toda mi esperanza, eres tú, eres tú
Como lluvia fresca en mis manos
como fuerte brisa, eres tú, eres tú
Así, así, eres tú

Eres tú como el agua de mi fuente
Eres tú el fuego de mi hogar
Eres tú como el agua de mi fuente
Eres tú el fuego de mi hogar

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

“Siyahamba/Marcharemos”

Gospel Ensemble

Sarah Kane

(Based on a South African Traditional Song)

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

Marcharemos en la luz de Dios,
marcharemos en la luz de Dios.

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

Riqi Velez

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Breathe” from *In the Heights*
Alexandria Calendaria Rivera, soloist

(Lin-Manuel Miranda; Quiara Alegría Hudes)

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 32.1–6

Wade Elkins

SERMON

“Golden Idols”

Miguel De La Torre

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Jacqui Lewis

OFFERTORY

“I Am America”
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

(K. L. Bates, S. A. Ward, S. Diamond, S. Germanotta, J. Laursen;

arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney)

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Marlene Fox

HYMN

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

(Frances R. Havergal; H. A. César Malan)

Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,

let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move
at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose,
all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place,
make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.
Take me now and help me be
part of Christ's community,
part of Christ's community.

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE "En Este Día Celebramos"

(Don Moen, Paul Wilbur, and Aline Barros)

En este día celebramos
El gozo de su salvación
Y con amor nos abrazamos
Cantando nueva canción

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

Guest Preacher [Rev. Miguel De La Torre Ph.D.](#) is a professor of ethics and Latinx studies at Iliff Theological Seminary and the author of *Burying White Privilege: Resurrecting a Badass Christianity* and *The U.S. Immigration Crisis: Toward an Ethics of Place*. @DrDeLaTorre

THIS WEEK: GOLDEN IDOLS

- 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: 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 with your family, roommates, partner, children...?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day. Joanna Stevens and family.
Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Janna Myers, Victoria Dillard, Mr. Fantastic, the Flash,
Jacqui Lewis, Lex Luthor, and Dr. Doom.

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.
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 **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 \$371,115.51** (\$197,383.79 actuals; \$173,731.72 recurring commitments). That puts us at **41.2%** 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.](http://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 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](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Borough-Based Meetups](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Indigenous Peoples Day • Middle Staff Holiday

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Introduction to the Hebrew Bible \(Old Testament\)](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 7:00 p.m.: [Heart and Soul](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Do the Write Thing](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 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](#)

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 at 12:45 p.m. ET

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

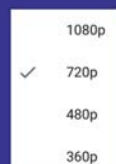
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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

WEBSITE middlechurch.org

Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch

Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis

YouTube.com/MiddleChurch

Instagram.com/middlechurch

Instagram.com/revjacquilewis

Twitter.com/middlechurch

Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

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