

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

OCTOBER 25, 2020 • 11:45 AM • REFORMATION SUNDAY

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Marlene Fox

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

“Welcome”

(Tituss Burgess)

Branch Woodman, soloist

HYMN

“Will You Be There?”

(Michael Jackson)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

Hold me, like the River Jordan
And I will then say to thee
You are my friend
Carry me, like you are my brother
Love me like a mother
Will you be there?

Weary, tell me will you hold me
When wrong, will you scold me
When lost will you find me?
But they told me that I should be faithful
And walk when not able
And fight 'til the end but I'm only human

Everyone's taking control of me
Seems that the world's got a role for me,
I'm so confused, will you show to me

You'll be there for me
And care enough to bear me

Hold me, lay your head lowly
Softly then boldly, Carry me there
Hold me, love me and feed me
Kiss me and free me, I will feel blessed
Carry me, carry me boldly
Lift me up slowly, Carry me there
Save me, heal me and bathe me
Softly you say to me, I will be there

Lift me, lift me up slowly
Carry me boldly, Show me you care
Hold me, lay your head lowly
Softly then boldly, Carry me there
Need me, love me and feed me
Kiss me and free me, I will feel blessed

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

"Siyahamba"
Village Chorus for Children and Youth

Sarah Kane
(South African Traditional Song)

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

MIDDLE IN TWO MINUTES

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

John Del Cueto

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM "Blackbird" (Lennon/McCartney; arr. J. Del Cueto)
Nedra Neal, lead vocal • Adrienne Hurd, dance
Ensemble: Madge Dietrich, Tina Owens, Gina Pemberton

SCRIPTURE Leviticus 19.1–2, 15–18 Dominique Lee

SERMON "Vote for Love, Part 1: Who Is My Neighbor?" Jacqui Lewis

• **RESPONDING** •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Shanta Thake

OFFERTORY "We Are Here" (Cook, Batson, Dean, Lilly; arr. J. Del Cueto)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

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

DEDICATION PRAYER Marlene Fox

HYMN "Takin' It to the Street" (Michael McDonald)
Gospel Ensemble • Riqi Velez, lead vocal

You don't know me but I'm your neighbor
I was raised here in this living Hell
You don't know my kind in your world
Fairly soon, the time will tell

You, telling me the things you're gonna do for me
I ain't blind and I don't like what I think I see

Takin' it to the streets
Takin' it to the streets
Takin' it to the streets

Take this message to my neighbor
You will find them everywhere
Wherever people live together
Tied in poverty's despair

You, telling me the things you're gonna do for me
I ain't blind and I don't like what I think I see

Takin' it to the streets
Takin' it to the streets
Takin' it to the streets
Takin' it to the streets

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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

THIS WEEK: VOTE FOR LOVE, PART 1—WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

- Which of your neighbors needs fair judgement?
- Which of your neighbors need to be rebuked frankly?
- Which of your neighbors need you forgive them, drop your grudge against them, and love them as you love yourself?

LAST WEEK: CALLED FOR MORE

- How is God speaking to our young people? How can we help them listen? How can we collectively listen?
- What is God calling us to do? Who is God calling us to be?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day. Liz, Myhang; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Pam Payne, Devora Jones, Jacqui Lewis, Amanda Ashcraft, Joe Tigner, Sandra Catena, Iron Man, Wonder Woman, Mr. Spock, Captain Sisko, Bridget Kelso Anthony; Karin Garcia and family.

To make a prayer request, request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit 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

Every Sunday, 12:45 p.m. ET

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 \$386,154.06** (\$218,001.79 actuals; \$168,152.27 recurring commitments). That puts us at **43%** 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.



Nov. 5, 12, 19
7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

There is so much to mourn right now.
Whether you lost someone close to you, or
are just grieving the state of our world—
you don't need to carry this weight alone.

Grief Gatherings
RSVP: bit.ly/midlegrief

middle  church
JUST LOVE

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 25

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Revolutionary Parenting](#)
- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Organizing White Voters for Collective Liberation](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Poll Chaplain Training](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 2:00 p.m.: [Virtual Coffee with a Middle Minister](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [JJGC Artists Salon](#)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 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.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Communion on the Steps](#)
- 6:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party and Middle Mixer](#)

DO THE WRITE THING

Oct. 28
7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

Explore how journaling helps us connect to necessary self-expression, hope and healing in the time of pandemic. Led by Monique Fortuné.

Do the Write Thing
RSVP: bit.ly/write-thing

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New 2020 Fall Programs

CLICK
HERE

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

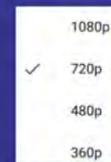
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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