

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • 11:45 AM • REIGN OF GOD SUNDAY •  
QUEER BLACK MEN IN THE MIDDLE WORSHIP

• GATHERING •

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Keith Allen

### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Ben Perry

“Welcome”

(Tituss Burgess)

No one is turned away,  
This rule we cannot break  
And just in case you're wondering –  
We're more alike than it may seem

Oh, it's safe here,  
Minds can renew here  
Come in and you'll find out.

### HYMN

“I Know I've Been Changed” (Trad. Spiritual; arr. J. Del Cueto/ D. McClain-Freeney)  
Queer Black Men in the Middle • Robert Hughes and Lee Hill, soloists

I know I've been changed, I know I've been changed  
I know I've been changed –  
the angels in heaven done signed my name.

### CHORUS

Know I've been changed, know I've been changed  
Know I've been changed, know I've been changed  
Know I've been changed, know I've been changed  
Angels in heaven done signed my name.

If you don't believe that I've been redeemed,  
Angels in heaven done signed my name

Then follow me down to the Jordan stream,  
Angels in heaven done signed my name

CHORUS

Stepped in the water, the water was cold,  
Angels in heaven done signed my name  
It chilled my body, but not my soul  
Angels in heaven done signed my name.

CHORUS

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Matthew Johnson Harris

“All Kinds of People” (Rodgers & Hammerstein; arr. Matthew Johnson Harris)

Drew Wutke, pianist

“Siyahamba” (South African Traditional Song)

Tereno Burroughs, soloist

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

MIDDLE IN TWO MINUTES

Alex Bertrand

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER

Alex Bertrand

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

Queer Black Men in the Middle

ANTHEM

“Freedom Song” (Ivan Anderson)

Ivan Anderson, soloist • Aliya Anderson, dancer

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 34.11–16

Alvin Crawford, RJ Hill, Wakefield,  
Ishmael Houston-Jones, Ivan Anderson

SERMON

“Fed with Justice”

Wesley Rowell

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Daryl Douglas

Ishmael Houston-Jones and Malcolm-x Betts, dancers

**OFFERTORY** “Make Them Hear You” from *Ragtime* (Stephen Flaherty; Lynn Ahrens)  
Alvin Crawford, soloist • Allison Sniffin, pianist

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**

Jonathan Lucas

**HYMN** “Great Is Your Faithfulness” (Thomas O Chisholm; William M. Runyon)

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,  
with you no shadow of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions, they fail not;  
All of your goodness forever will be.

REFRAIN

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

REFRAIN

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

REFRAIN

**BENEDICTION**

Jacqui Lewis

**POSTLUDE** “Ride On, King Jesus” (Traditional; arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney)  
Robert Hughes, soloist

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

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## THIS WEEK: FED WITH JUSTICE

- God's word promises that we are fed justice. What are we feeding the world? Are we feeding God's food—or someone else's? What are we feeding ourselves?

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## LAST WEEK: A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- The church in Jerusalem believed Jesus when he said the work of the church is to love God, love neighbor, and love self. What can we learn from the church in Jerusalem and Barnabas that can bring us together to heal our current divide?

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

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.** Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Amanda Ashcraft, Raider Nation, Magneto, Mr. Freeze, Captain Cold, Black Widow, She Hulk, Alicia Swain, Sheila Harding and Capitalism.

**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).

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# 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](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](https://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 \$456,064.12** (\$295,759.84 actuals; \$160,304.28 recurring commitments). That puts us at **50%** 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.

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—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory.

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate).

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# Middle Virtual Gatherings

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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, NOVEMBER 22

- 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](#)

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 2:00 p.m.: [Virtual Coffee with Rev. Amanda](#)

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**Thanksgiving Day • Middle Staff Holiday**

- 12:00 p.m.: [A Gathering of Gratitude and Community](#)

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Children's Multicultural Book Fair Sales Begin!**

- 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.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)

## 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, 12:45 p.m. ET

# New November & December Programs

CLICK HERE

## MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

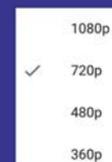
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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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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### CONSISTORY

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