

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 • 11:45 AM • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

LOVE IS ... HOPE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Mallette Stephens Family

HYMN

"I Am Light"

(India.Arie)

Alyson Palmer, singer • Tony Salvatore, guitar
Adrienne Hurd and Lutin Tanner, dancers

I am light, I am light
I am light, I am light

I am not the color of my eyes
I am not the skin outside
I am not my age, I am not my race
My soul inside, is all light.
All light. All light. All light.

I am light, I am light
I am light, I am light.

I am divinity defined
I am God inside
I am a star, a piece of it all
I am light.

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Kane

“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

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “I Lift My Hands”

(Chris Tomlin; arr. John Del Cueto)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth • Jonah Carter Smith, soloist

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

Dionne McClain-Freeney

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Awaiting You”

(Adam Guettel)

Tituss Burgess, soloist • Terris Krueger, accompanist

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 80.1–7, 17–19

Lee Hill

SERMON

“Restoration Hard Wear”

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Michael Dinwiddie

OFFERTORY “God Is Good”

(Chester D.T. Baldwin)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Tina Owens, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Gabriella de Golia

HYMN

“Over My Head”

(Thomas O Chisholm; William M. Runyon)

Over my head I hear music in the air.
Over my head I hear music in the air.
Over my head I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere!

Over my head I hear singing in the air.
Over my head I hear singing in the air.
Over my head I hear singing in the air.
There must be a God somewhere!

Over my head I see freedom in the air.
Over my head I see freedom in the air.
Over my head I see freedom in the air.
There must be a God somewhere!

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

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

THIS WEEK: RESTORATION HARD WEAR

- Reflecting back on last Sunday, what is the Reign of God like for you?
- When you think about restoration, where do you need it and how?
- At the start of this Advent journey, how are you defining/finding hope?

LAST 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?

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

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 \$411,937.24** (\$255,927.29 actuals; \$156,009.95 recurring commitments). That puts us at **45%** 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.

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

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.

[Click to sign up for Coffee with Rev. Amanda](#) • [Click to sign up for Coffee with Rev. Jacqui](#)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

First Sunday of Advent

Children's Multicultural Book Fair Sales Begin!

- 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](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 7:00 p.m.: [Advent Bible Study](#)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

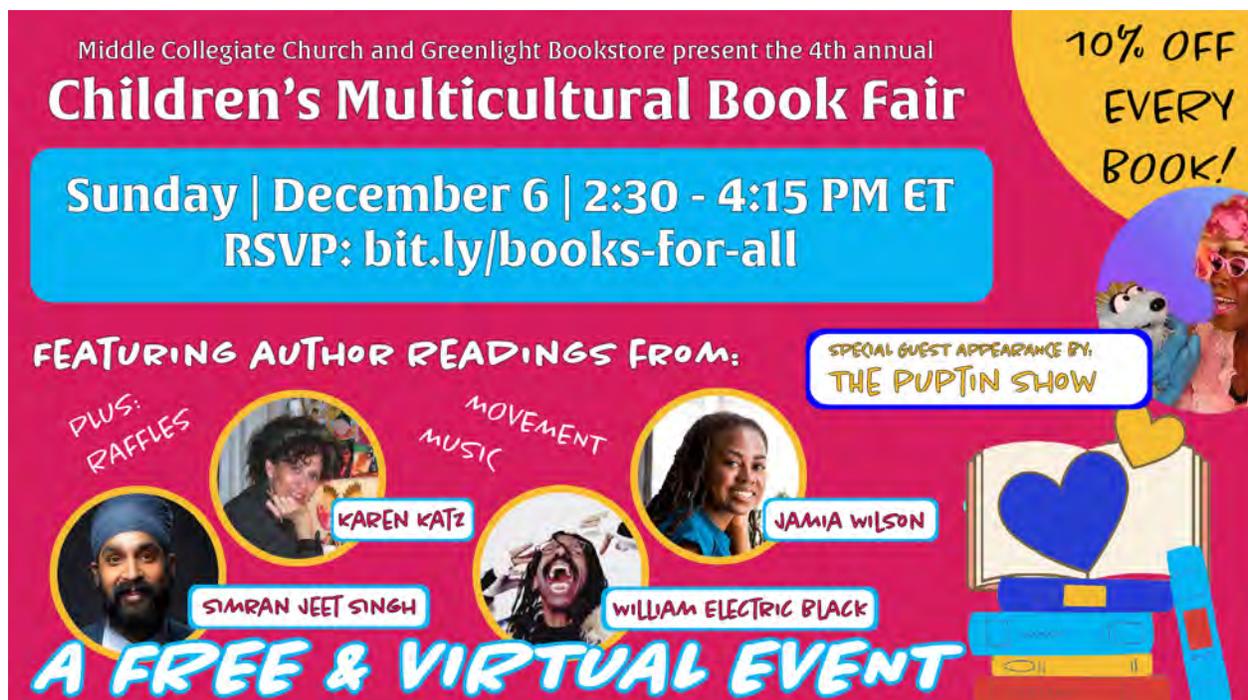
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Second Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [The Soul of Money](#)
- 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](#)
- 2:30 p.m.: [Children's Multicultural Book Fair](#)



Middle Collegiate Church and Greenlight Bookstore present the 4th annual

Children's Multicultural Book Fair

Sunday | December 6 | 2:30 - 4:15 PM ET
RSVP: bit.ly/books-for-all

10% OFF EVERY BOOK!

FEATURING AUTHOR READINGS FROM:

- DJVS: RAFFLES
- MOVEMENT MUSIC

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY: THE PUPTIN SHOW

SIMRAN JEET SINGH
KAREN KATZ
JAMIA WILSON
WILLIAM ELECTRIC BLACK

A FREE & VIRTUAL EVENT

The poster features a vibrant pink background with a blue banner for the event details. It includes circular portraits of authors Simran Jeet Singh, Karen Katz, Jamia Wilson, and William Electric Black. There are also illustrations of books, a heart, and a character from 'The Puptin Show'.

New November & December Programs

CLICK HERE

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

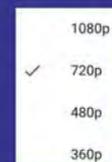
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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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