

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JANUARY 3, 2021 • 11:45 AM • SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Darren Johnston

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(John Francis Wade)

Middle Church Choir

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

REFRAIN

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

REFRAIN

• REFLECTING •

MIDDLE RISING

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

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"Hark"

(l. Houghton, L. Hanes; arr. J. Watson)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2.1–12

Natalie Perkins

SERMON

"Home by Another Road"

Natalie Perkins

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

Jacqui Lewis

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink. It can be bread and wine; crackers and grape juice; pancakes and coffee; French toast and mimosas; a piece of fruit and water. 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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Devon Mosley

OFFERTORY

"Blessings Medley"

(J. Oatman, M. Douroux)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Deborah Berg McCarthy, lead

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @[MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)
or Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

DEDICATION PRAYER

Chad Tanaka Pack

HYMN

"Let Your Little Light Shine"

(Trad.; arr. Pamela Warrick-Smith)

Jacqui Lewis, leader

LEADER

CONGREGATION

Let your little light

Shine, shine, shine

Let your little light

Shine, oh my Lord,

There might be

Someone down in the valley tryin' to get home.

BENEDICTION

Natalie Perkins

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

THIS WEEK: HOME BY ANOTHER ROAD

- What can we learn that we wouldn't have experienced if we didn't have to go home by another road?
- How can we live more fully into what God is calling us to do because our path is now different?
- What have we learned in 2020 that sends us on our journey home a different way?

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, Sheila Robinson, Janna Myers, Alicia Swain, Joe Tigner, Pam Payne, Renee Cunningham, Connie Blackwell, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, The Raider Nation, and Clark Kent.

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— We are sending each and every one of you our love and warmest wishes for the holidays! As we enter a New Year, we are excited to keep putting Revolutionary Love in the world!

Many of us are still reeling from the fire that destroyed our beloved sanctuary. While many of us are still in grief, it's also true that our journey toward rebuilding has begun. Our communities—East Village, New York, our nation, and friends around the globe—have been so supportive, by holding fundraisers and making donations toward the work of reimagining and reconstruction of new sacred space. **Through your amazing kindness, we've raised more than \$500,000 since December 5! We'll need to raise millions more** in order to supplement our insurance and rebuild, and this grass-roots fundraising will be **essential** to seeking funding from other sources.

Won't you consider making a gift to help **your** Middle Church rise from the ashes, and enact Revolutionary Love in new sacred space? Can we count on you to make a pledge today? No gift is too small! A weekly pledge of \$25 becomes a total of \$1,200 for the year! **Please make your donation online at middlechurch.org/rising or through Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch or by texting [Amount] to (917)924-4666.**

Family, Middle Church is on the rise! We will rebuild and come back stronger than ever, but only with your help! Let's band together and continue to do the work that our world needs! We are so grateful to you for your love and generosity. After the fire . . . It's the rising!

—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, JANUARY 3

- 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](#)

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Middle YOUTH](#)
- 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](#)

Need Care?

CLICK HERE
for more information



Chat & Chew

12:45 p.m. ET

**Come to talk about the sermon
and spend time together**

Revolutionary Love: The Courage to Imagine

[CLICK HERE](#)

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

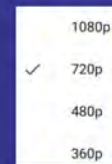
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

Rev. Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

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| SANCTUARY | 112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.) | Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch |
| OFFICE | 50 East 7th Street New York, NY 10003 | Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis YouTube.com/MiddleChurch |
| TELEPHONE | 212-477-0666 | Instagram.com/middlechurch |
| CARE LINE | 212-477-0666 ext. 318 | Instagram.com/revjacquilewis |
| E-MAIL | middleinfo@middlechurch.org | Twitter.com/middlechurch |
| WEBSITE | middlechurch.org | Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis |

CONSISTORY

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Deborah Berg McCarthy
Linda Doria
Johanna Goepel
Vincent Parham
Sandra Santana
Kaede Zaitzu-Helck

To help us replace/rebuild what we've lost in the fire, visit MiddleChurch.org/Rising