

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 6, 2020 • 11:45 AM • SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

LOVE IS ... PEACE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Jacqui Lewis

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Jacqui Lewis

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

• REFLECTING •

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

Dionne McClain-Freeney

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40.1–11

Jacqui Lewis

SERMON

“Tidings of Comfort and Peace”

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

Jacqui Lewis and John Janka

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.

ANTHEM

“Nothing Is Impossible/
There Are No Impossibles”
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

(Eugene L. Clark/Margaret Douroux)

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Darren Edward Johnston

OFFERTORY

“My Help Cometh from the Lord”
Elizabeth Stanley, soloist

(Jackie Gouche Farris)

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



DEDICATION PRAYER

Jhanay Willams

HYMN

“Total Praise”

(Richard Smallwood)

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

“Beautiful City”

(Stephen Schwartz)

Branch Woodman, soloist

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

“Total Praise” Words and music by Richard Smallwood. © 1996 T. Autumn Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Universal Music - Z Songs (Admin. by Universal Music Corp.) CCLI License #11247152

THIS WEEK: TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND PEACE

After worship, we will be holding communal space to grieve in our [Chat & Chew](#) at 12:45 p.m. ET. To make sure everyone can join a Zoom room, we will be offering 3 spaces. So if you are unable to join the first, simply try the next. Staff will be present in every room to hold space for sharing grief, and memories of everything the sanctuary means to us. [Click here for more information.](#)

LAST 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?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day. Frank Yusko, Michele Yusko; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Sheila Robinson, Jacqui Lewis, Amanda Ashcraft, Raider Nation, Jet fans, The Undertaker, the Fantastic Four and a Happy Thanksgiving.

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](https://www.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 \$489,054.42** (\$344,067.8 actuals; \$144,986.94 recurring commitments). That puts us at **54%** 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.



Need Care?
CLICK HERE
for information

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, 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](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Cookie Communion](#)
- 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](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 Third Sunday of Advent

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [The Soul of Money](#)
- 10:45 a.m.: [New Members' Gathering](#)
- 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](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

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:
PWS: RAFFLES
MOVEMENT MUSIC
SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY: THE PUPTIN SHOW
SIMRAN JEET SINGH
KAREN KATZ
WILLIAM ELECTRIC BLACK
JAMIA WILSON
A FREE & VIRTUAL EVENT

Revolutionary Love: The Courage to Imagine

[CLICK HERE](#)

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

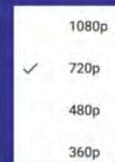
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Ivan Anderson

Vickie Burns

Pete Grenfell

Darren Johnston CHAIR

Gerald Lazore

Hadaryah Morgan

Claudia Slacik

Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

DEACONS

Edna Benitez

Lila Boyer

Pamela Edgar

Beth Ellor

Kelly Smith

Dennis Barton INTERSECTIONS

Johanna Goepel LOCAL DEACON

Vincent Parham LOCAL DEACON

Kaede Zaitzu-Helck LOCAL DEACON