

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 13, 2020 • 11:45 AM • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

LOVE IS ... JOY

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Jacqui Lewis

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Mallette Stephens Family
Sandra Santana and Family
Hambrick Ashcraft Family

HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Middle Church Choir

(German, 15th century)

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
from tender stem has sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
as saints of old have sung.
It came a floret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Elise Tiralli

“Siyahamba”

(South African Traditional Song)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

MIDDLE RISING

Jacqui Lewis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER

Jacqui Lewis

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

“Mary, Did You Know?”

(Mark Lowry and Buddy Green; arr. John Del Cueto)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1.46b–55

Gabriela De Golia

SERMON

“Love’s Song”

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Shanta Thake

OFFERTORY

“Joy”

(Kirk Franklin)

Gospel Ensemble • Shari Gill, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument”

(M. Roger Holland, II)

Middle Church Choir

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace, of Thy peace
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not
so much seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood, as to understand
to be loved as to love.

For it's in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
and it is dying that we are born to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument.
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace, of Thy peace,
of Thy peace.

BENEDICTION

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day. Kapsner family, Mary and Mike; Frank Yusko, Michelle Yusko; Scottie Warren and Bobby Orr; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Sheila Robinson, Alicia Swain, Janna Myers, The Raider Nation, Capitalism, Free Enterprise, Cori Margolin and Sabertooth.

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

Need Care?

CLICK HERE
for more information

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 2020 draws to a close and 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. But even in this grieving moment, we want to assure you that Middle will keep being Middle. We will keep fighting for justice and equality. We will care for our community. We will keep using our voice to advocate for those who do not have one. Programs like the Middle Collegiate Church Cancel Rent/Mortgage Program and Black Lives Matter Fund will remain in full effect. **The outpouring of love for the community has been amazing and we are so deeply grateful. Just in the time since the fire, we have raised more than \$195,000! From California—to Beijing, from Paris—to New Zealand, the Middle community spans the entire globe!**

Please join us in pushing the Revolutionary Love movement in this moment! As you consider your end-of-year plans, 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.**

Middle family, we have a long road ahead as we begin this journey of rebuilding our church. But we have no doubt that just as in any other difficult time that we've faced, we will 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/rising.



New Members Gathering
10:30 a.m. ET

**Meet other new Middle members
and complete joining the church!**

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 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](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Goodbye Party for Sarah Kane](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 7:30 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 1:30 p.m.: [Queer Christmas Joy](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Fourth 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](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Ordination of Natalie Renee Perkins to the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)



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

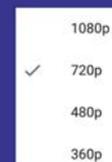
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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