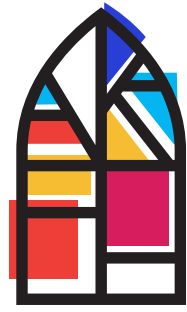


# middle church



JUST LOVE

---

## Sunday Worship Celebration

---

DECEMBER 20, 2020 • 11:45 AM • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

LOVE IS ... LOVE

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Jacqui Lewis

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Janka Deveaux Family

**INTROIT**

“Ain’t a That a Rockin’”

(Trad. Spiritual; arr. John Del Cueto)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

**HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

(Isaac Watts; arr. Luther Henderson)

Middle Church Choir with the Manhattan Brass

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Pamela Edgar

“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

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “O, Holy Night”

(Adolphe Adam; arr. Allison Sniffin)

Middle Church Choir

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

Wesley Rowell

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 1.26–38

Carlos Piñero

HOMILY “Say ‘YES’ to Love”

Jacqui Lewis

“Mary’s Song (Breath of Heaven)”

(Amy Grant and Chris Eaton;

Elizabeth Stanley, soloist • Adrienne Hurd, dancer arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney)

Reenat Pinchas, cello • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano

Lutin Tanner and Jeff Berman, video production

HOMILY / JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

OFFERTORY “Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

(Trad.; arr. John Del Cueto,

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Dionne McClain-Freeney)

Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; Jonathan Peretz, drums;

BAASSIK, bass; Jeremy Price, Hammond organ

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Jacqui Lewis



## HYMN

“Long as I Got King Jesus”

(James Cleveland)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Deborah Berg McCarthy, soloist

Well, I've been lied on, cheated,  
Talked about, mistreated,  
I've been used, scorned,  
Talked about sore as bone.  
I've been up, down, almost to the ground  
But long as I got king Jesus, long as got king Jesus,  
Long long long as I got  
I don't need nobody else.

I don't need nobody else  
I don't need nobody else  
I don't need nobody else  
I don't need nobody else.  
Mother, father, sister, brother  
Doctor, lawyer,  
Preacher, teacher.  
But long as I got king Jesus, long as got king Jesus  
Long long long as I got  
I don't need nobody else.

King Jesus  
I got Him!

Long as I got king Jesus, long as got king Jesus  
Long long long as I got  
I don't need nobody else.

## BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

---

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

---

**Village Chorus for Children and Youth •** John Del Cueto, Director of Worship – Dominick Vizioli, Carlo Vizioli, Caelyn Osbern, Tomoki Harada, Brooks Leslie, Lucien Tanner, Ellington Tanner, Cerentha Cook, Miranda Oden Cook, Amelia Petkos, Vivienne Petkos, Coraline Petkos, Lake Salvatore.

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

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.** Mother Big T, daughter M, and our democracy; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Alicia Swain, Janna Myers, Raider Nation, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, The Fire Department, Sheila Robinson and the late Walter Williams

**To make a prayer request,** request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit [middlechurch.org/prayer](https://www.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](http://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](http://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 over \$299,000! From California—to Beijing, from Paris—to New Zealand, the Middle community spans the entire globe!**

As part of your year-end planning, please consider joining us to push the Revolutionary Love movement. 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](http://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.](http://middlechurch.org/donate)

---

## Need Care?

**CLICK HERE**  
for more information



## Chat & Chew

### 12:45 p.m. ET

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

---

# Middle Virtual Gatherings

---

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, 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](#)

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [A Mosaic Christmas](#)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

### CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00 p.m.: [The Night Before Christmas with Rev. Jacqui](#)
- 9:00 p.m.: [A Bold New Love: Middle's Christmas Eve Celebration](#)
- 11:00 p.m.: [Lights for Middle](#)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

### CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9:00 a.m.: [A Bold New Love: Middle's Christmas Morning Celebration](#)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 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](#)

## The Night Before Christmas



## A Family Celebration with Rev. Jacqui

# Revolutionary Love: The Courage to Imagine

[CLICK HERE](#)

## MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

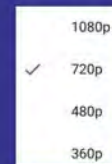
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

To help us replace/rebuild what we've lost in the fire, visit [MiddleChurch.org/Rising](https://MiddleChurch.org/Rising)