

middle church

JUST LOVE

A Bold New Love Christmas Eve with Middle Collegiate Church

DECEMBER 24, 2020 • 9:00 PM • DECEMBER 25, 2020 • 9:00 AM

• GATHERING •

ANTHEM

“Joyful, Joyful”

(arr. M. Warren; adapt. R. Emerson)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir – Samantha Waite, Ivan Anderson, soloists

Choreography by Kim Grier-Martinez, Mark Dendy, Adrienne Hurd

Jeremy Price, Hammond organ solo

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

(Traditional)

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
The glory of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

~ REFLECTING ~

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Shanta Thake

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING “Grateful”

(T. Burgess)

Art & Soul Chorus – Angela Birchett, soloist

FILM

“Bold. New. Love.”

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Marte Samuelstuen

Josephine Gibson, Eddie Levy, Sarah Levy, Henry Gibson

SONG

“Arrival Medley”

(Trad.; arr. J. Del Cueto)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9.6–7

Bertram Johnson

SONG

“Oh, Jerusalem in the Morning”

(arr. J. H. Jennings)

Middle Church Choir – Robert Hughes, Tami Petty, soloists;
Beth Hatton, Ann Wazelle, Joslyn King, trio

FILM

“Bold. New. Love.”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2.1–7

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft
Derrick Harkins

SONG

“A Child Is Born”

(T. Jones, arr. S. Broadley)

Middle Church Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2.8–14

Rob Stephens
Christina Fleming

FILM

“Bold. New. Love.”

ANTHEM

“Angel Gabriel”

(Old Basque Carol)

“Glory”

(J. Stephens, L. Lynn, C. Smith)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir – Alex Bertrand, soloist
Matthew Johnson Harris, rapper

SPOKEN WORD “Word Made Flesh” Genesis Be

ANTHEM “You’re My Joy” (T. Burgess)
Art & Soul Chorus – Kristina Nicole Miller, soloist

HOMILY “A Bold New Religion Called Love” Jacqui Lewis

~ RESPONDING ~

CEREMONY OF LIGHT Jacqui Lewis

HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” (Traditional)

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

BENEDICTION Jacqui Lewis

SONG “Long as I Got King Jesus” (J. Cleveland)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir – Deborah Berg McCarthy, soloist

POSTLUDE “Joyful, Joyful” reprise (arr. M. Warren; adapt. R. Emerson)

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

ORGANIST • Allison Sniffin

MIDDLE CHURCH BAND • Dionne McClain-Freeney – Director of Music, piano; Jonathan Peretz, drums; BAASSIK, bass; Jeremy Price, Hammond organ.

MIDDLE CHURCH CHOIR • Tami L. Petty, D.M.A., Director • Sarah Abigail Griffiths, Beth Hatton, Melissa Casey José, Ann Wazelle, Joslyn King, Nedra Neal, Linda Childs, Robert Hughes, Eric Lamp, David Root, Mark Rehnstrom, Vaughn Lindquist, Wesley Rowell, Charles Brown.

ART & SOUL CHORUS • Tituss Burgess, Director • Alex Bertrand, Angela Birchett, Vanjah Boikai, Anne Fraser Dansky, Darrell Hunt, Carole Jones, Andre Jordan, Farah Lopez, Kristina Nicole Miller, Jeffrey Mills, Keith Mitchell, Andrew Shade, Daphne Shawn, Carla Stewart, Helen White, Larry Whitfield.

DANCERS • London Brison, Malaika Cambridge, Jendaya Dash, Kayla M. Farrish, Soraya Gibson, Jamal Green, Spencer Grossman, Adrienne Hurd, Maurice Ivy, Jamia Nicole Jordan, Nami Kagami, Zemi Moreno-Billingsley, Lauren Son, Ellington Tanner, Lucien Tanner.

JERRIESE JOHNSON GOSPEL CHOIR • John Del Cueto, Director • Alex Bertrand, Alexandra Verley, Alison Winter, Andreas Vaagt, Bianca Toscano Michalczak, Charles Dietrich, Cheryl Cochran, Cornelia Zelter, Dean Hubbard, Deborah Berg McCarthy, Devon Mosely, Don Arrington, Elaine Guardo, Fabienne Doucet, Gina Pemberton, Gloria Moy, Geoffrey Perry, Ivan Anderson, Jana Quigley, Janet Laing, Jennifer Cook, Jenny Holman, Jessica Baen, Jim Pender, Junko Harada, Kaede Zaitzu-Helck, Karen Brightly, Kashimi Asai, Kristin Bebelaar, Laci Beckett, Lee Hill, Leonel Martinez, Linda Doria, Lisa Dent, Lisa Fenger, Mady Marantz, Malaika Mumeka, Miyuki Habiro, Momoyo Arai, Nathan Johnson, Patrick Mulcahy, Pennington Lane, Paul Chernosky, Ray Shah, Riqi Velez, Rochelle Doctor, Samantha Waite, Sandra Anderson, Sandra Santana, Tina Cernero, Tina Owens.

VILLAGE CHORUS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH • John Del Cueto, Director • Brooks Leslie, Caelyn Osbern, Cerentha Cook, Christian Unthank, Dominick Vizioli, Ellington Tanner, Ethan Unthank, Genevieve Jean Charles, Jonah Carter Smith, Josephine Jean Charles, Lucien Tanner, Soraya Gibson, Talin Schell, Tomoki Harada.

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day. Baby Ariella and her parents Mike and Carolyn; Keith Sievers; Frank Yusko, his caretakers, and Michelle Yusko; Keith Sievers; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Sheila Robinson, Alicia Swain, Janna Myers, Louise Tatum, Sandra Catena, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, Joe Tigner, and The Raider Nation.

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

Middle family,

Though we can't be together, and our physical sanctuary burned, on Christmas Eve we proclaim: We are sanctuary everywhere — any place God's love is born. At 11:00 p.m., light a candle for Middle, so we may be connected—wherever we are, bound together as one family. Share a photo of your candle with the world, tagging it #LightsforMiddle & #MiddleRising.

May our love grow like your flame, igniting hope and justice. Merry Christmas!



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. 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 almost \$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 year-end gift to help **your** Middle Church rise from the ashes, and enact Revolutionary Love in new sacred space? 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 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.



Need Care?

CLICK HERE
for more 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.

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](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [A Mosaic Christmas Encore](#)

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](#)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

- 6:00 p.m.: [New Year's Eve Worship Celebration](#)

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](#)



A Mosaic Christmas

A CONCERT TO SUPPORT
MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2020

7 PM



Revolutionary Love: The Courage to Imagine

[CLICK HERE](#)

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

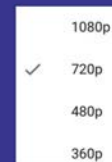
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

Rev. Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

SANCTUARY	112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.)	Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
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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

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Lila Boyer
Thelma Boyiri
Pamela Edgar
Beth Ellor
Kelly Smith
Dennis Barton INTERSECTIONS

Local Deacons

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