

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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DECEMBER 27, 2020 • 11:45 AM • FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Jacqui Lewis

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED**

Jacqui Lewis

**HYMN**

“Jesus, the Light of World”

(George D. Elderkin and Charles Wesley)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King,  
Jesus, the light of the world.

REFRAIN

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
O, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

Joyful, all you nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

REFRAIN

• 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**

Wesley Rowell

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD’S PRAYER**

Wesley Rowell

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**

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

**ANTHEM**

“O Come, Emmanuel”

(Traditional)

Natalie Renee Perkins, soloist

**SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 148

Ben Perry

**SERMON**

“A Particular Kind of Joy”

Ben Perry

• RESPONDING •

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Jacqui Lewis

**OFFERTORY**

“Broken But I’m Healed”

(V. Michael McKay)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Don Arrington, Deborah Berg McCarthy, Ivan Anderson, soloists

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

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

Jacqui Lewis

**HYMN**

“Angels, We Have Heard on High”

(Traditional French carol)

Middle Church Choir

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

REFRAIN

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
God, our world now entering.

REFRAIN

**BENEDICTION**

Ben Perry

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

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“Jesus, the Light of the World” • Words: George D. Elderkin and Charles Wesley; Music: George D. Elderkin; Arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725559.

**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](https://middlechurch.org/prayer).

**Need Care?**

**CLICK HERE**  
for more information

# Welcome to Middle Church

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**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).

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**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).

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**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 reimagination 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](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).**

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# Middle Virtual Gatherings

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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 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](#)



## 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

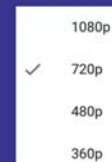
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH IS ON LENAPE LAND ON TURTLE ISLAND.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

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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.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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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*

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#### CONSISTORY

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##### 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  
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](https://MiddleChurch.org/Rising)