

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JANUARY 10, 2021 • 11:45 AM • BAPTISM OF JESUS

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Ben Perry

HYMN

“Wade in the Water”

(Trad.)

REFRAIN

Wade in the water, wade in the water children,
Wade in the water, God’s gonna trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white,
God’s gonna trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite,
God’s gonna trouble the water.

REFRAIN

See that band all dressed in red,
God’s gonna trouble the water.
Looks like the band that Moses led,
God’s gonna trouble the water.

REFRAIN

If you don’t believe I’ve been redeemed,
God’s gonna trouble the water.
Just follow me down to Jordan’s stream,
God’s gonna trouble the water.

REFRAIN

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Alesha Borbo Kilayko

“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

Sandra Santana

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Ukuleliacs

ANTHEM

“In the Beginning”

(Shlomit Levi; arr. John Del Cueto)

Elizabeth Stanley, soloist

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1.1–5

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

SERMON

“Nothing and Everything to Say (and Do)”

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• RESPONDING •

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Wesley Rowell

OFFERTORY

“Expect a Miracle”

(Elbernita “Twinkie” Clark)

Middle Community Chorus • Angela Birchett, lead vocals

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Wesley Rowell



HYMN

“O for a World”

(Miriam Therese Winter; Carl G. Gläser; adapt. Lowell Mason)

O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

BENEDICTION

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

POSTLUDE

“One Day”

(P. Lawrence; M. Miller; P. Hernandez; A. Levine)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

“O for a World” • Words Copyright © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters.

THIS WEEK: NOTHING AND EVERYTHING TO SAY (AND DO)

- How did today’s sermon speak to what love looks like in these times?
- How does it inspire your life of faith and activism?
- What is one take away or learning you might share with others?

LAST WEEK: HOME BY ANOTHER ROAD

- What can we learn that we wouldn’t have experienced if we didn’t have to go home by another road?
- How can we live more fully into what God is calling us to do because our path is now different?
- What have we learned in 2020 that sends us on our journey home a different way?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day. Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Alicia Swain, Janna Myers, Chris Whittaker, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, The Raider Nation, Heather Godfrey, Mattie Russell, Cori Margolin, Jessie Matei, Wolverine, Sabertooth, and Magneto.

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 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 more than \$780,000 for Middle Rising! 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 gift to help **your** Middle Church rise from the ashes, and enact Revolutionary Love in new sacred space? 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.



**Black Trans Lives Matter in the Text Too:
Investing in a Black
Trans Liberation Theology**

Tuesday | Jan. 12, 19, 26 & Feb. 2 | 7:00 p.m. ET
RSVP & More Info: bit.ly/trans-liberation

with **J Mase III**
co-editor of *The Black Trans Prayer Book*

middle church
JUST LOVE

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, JANUARY 10

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

- 2:00 p.m.: [Virtual Coffee with Rev. Amanda](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Black Trans Theology Class with J Mase III](#)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

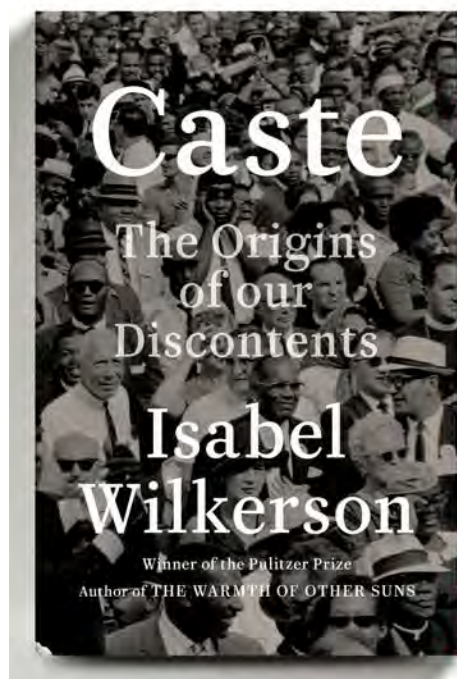
- 7:00 p.m.: [New Members Gathering](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17— CELEBRATING REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Caste: A Conversation](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)



Caste: A Conversation

January 17 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET



JACQUI LEWIS is a racial justice educator, she has appeared in the New York Times, MSNBC, the Washington Post, PBS and more to describe how we can heal.



ANU GUPTA is a sought-after mindfulness and bias expert and educator. He recently spoke about “Caste” with author Isabel Wilkerson and Oprah Winfrey.

Tickets: \$20 RSVP: bit.ly/caste-conversation

Revolutionary Love: The Courage to Imagine

[CLICK HERE](#)

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

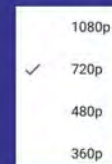
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

Rev. Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

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CONSISTORY

ELDERS

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Ivan Anderson
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Darren Johnston CHAIR
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Hadaryah Morgan
Claudia Slacik
Shanta Thake
Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

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Edna Benitez
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