

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JULY 4, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Let There Be Peace”

(Sweet Honey in the Rock)

Gospel Ensemble

PART 1

Standing for freedom, standing 'til it comes

PART 2

Standing, oh standing

Let there be peace on earth; let the moment be now,
where every man and woman understand their part.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Let there be peace on earth and let it extend
to every border near and far, restore peace again.

Let there be peace on earth, let this be the day,
when all humanity will raise their voices to say.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Text BULLETIN to (833) 786-0733 to receive this week's bulletin to your smart device.

• REFLECTING •

MIDDLE RISING

Darrell Hamilton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

Darrell Hamilton

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

John Del Cueto

PASSING OF THE PEACE

“La paz esté con nosotros”

(Cesáreo Gabaráin; arr. de Carmen Peña)

La paz esté con nosotros,
La paz esté con nosotros,
La paz esté con nosotros,
Que con nosotros siempre, siempre esté la paz.

We come to greet you in peace,
We come to greet you in peace,
We come to greet you in peace,
We come to greet you, greet you
Greet you in peace.

La paz esté con nosotros,
La paz esté con nosotros,
La paz esté con nosotros,
Que con nosotros siempre, siempre esté la paz.

ANTHEM

“O Say Can You See”

(Jacqui Lewis; arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney)

Gospel Ensemble

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 2.1–5

Natalie Perkins

SERMON

“Prophets Among Us”

Ben Perry and Elise Tiralli

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

Darrell Hamilton

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink. It can be bread and wine; crackers and grape juice; pancakes and coffee; French toast and mimosas; a piece of fruit and water. Everyone can participate, from the youngest to the oldest.

You will be invited to consecrate those ordinary elements with prayer, and the words of institution. And then we will eat together and drink together, communing with each other and with the Living God. You are welcome, just as you are, to participate in this special ritual of Grace and Love.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Ayanna Pressley

OFFERTORY “Freak Flag” (David Lindsay-Abaire; Jeanine Tesori, arr. Tami Petty and Allison Sniffin)
Middle Church Choir

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**
or Text GIVE to 917-924-4666

DEDICATION PRAYER

Julie Guerrero

HYMN “We Are Family” (Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

CHORUS

We are family. I got everybody with me
We are family, get, everybody, and sing!

Everyone can see we’re together
As we walk on by.
And we flock just like birds of a feather
I won’t tell no lie.
All of the people, around us, they say
“Can they be that close?”
Just let me state for the record
We're giving love in a family dose!

CHORUS

Living life is fun, and we’ve just begun
To get our share, of this world’s delights.
High hopes we have, for the future

And our goal's in sight.
No, we don't get depressed,
Here's what we call our golden rule:
Have faith in you and the things you do
You won't go wrong. This is our family jewel.

CHORUS

BENEDICTION

Darrell Hamilton

POSTLUDE

"Purpose"

(Ivan Anderson; Dionne McClain-Freeney)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

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

"**La paz esté con nosotros**" • Letra: Cesáreo Gabaráin; Música: Tradicional hebrea, arreg. de Carmen Peña © 1973 Cesáreo Gabaráin, publicado por OCP Publications

"**We Are Family**" • Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers. Copyright Warner-Tamerlane Pub. o/b/o Bernard's Other Music and Sony/ATV Songs LLC

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: PROPHETS AMONG US

- How can you be in better solidarity with trans, non-binary, and gender variant folx? What do you need to unlearn about gender in order to do so?
- Who are the prophets among you and your community that you might have overlooked? What can you learn from them?
- Is there anything keeping your body from being a site of liberation for yourself and others? What will help you become free?

LAST WEEK: FLAMING

- What does Pride mean to you, in light of and regardless of your sexuality or gender identity?
- What risks are you willing to take for your light to shine?
- How can you encourage and uplift others to follow the words of Jesus and be "the light of the world?"

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Peggy K and family; Tami and Nadav's new baby; Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Alicia Swain, Janna Myers, Sheila Robinson, Renee Cunningham, Marshall Drexel Cunningham, Valencia Armijio, Brittany Davis, Reddick Cunningham, Sheila Harding, Skip Reid, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, Pam Payne Family, Mattie Russell, Cori Margolin, Sandra Catena, Joe Tigner, Suzanne Caines, Vallory Leca, and The Raider Nation.

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

Text BULLETIN to (833) 786-0733 to receive this week's bulletin to your smart device.

VIDEOS AND PODCASTS — Worship music and sermon videos: youtube.com/MiddleChurch.
Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch.
Middle Church Celebrations podcast: middlechurch.org/podcasts.

DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY— The Consistory, Darren, and I are sending you love and hope that we can help God's dream of a just world come to fruition.

We are excited to keep putting Revolutionary Love in the world! Our digital worship and programs are more important than ever, as we partner with allies and accomplices across the nation to redeem the soul of America. We do this ongoing this work, even as we partner with our Collegiate colleagues to rise and reconstruct our sacred spaces. Our community, our city, this nation, and neighbors around the globe are being super generous to us. **As of this printing, we have received \$1,293,276 toward Middle Rising by the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2021.**

The fire didn't deter our movement building. We must continue to fund our ministry programming. **As of this printing, we have received \$639,682.786 to fund our ministries, programs, and operations by the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2021, which is 71% of our \$900,000 goal.**

- **To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations**, visit middlechurch.org/donate
OR donate through Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch or text GIVE to (917)924-4666.
- **To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts**, visit middlechurch.org/Rising
OR text RISE to (917)924-4666.

We still receive mail at **Middle Collegiate Church, 50 East 7th Street, New York, NY 10003**.
Some donations may require our EIN: 13-5564117 — Middle Collegiate Church aka Ministers, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York.

Family, Middle Church is still on the rise! Thank you for all you do. It's not the fire, it's the rising!

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory.

SAVE THE DATE! Middle Mixer!

Sunday, July 18 • 2-4 PM
Tompkins Square Park

For questions, please [email Rev. Amanda](mailto:amanda@middlechurch.org)

Middle Events Calendar

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

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, JULY 4

- 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](#)

MONDAY, JULY 5

MIDDLE STAFF HOLIDAY

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

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

THURSDAY, JULY 8

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

FRIDAY, JULY 9

- 11:00 a.m.: [Middle Youth Beach Day at Coney Island](#)

SATURDAY, JULY 10

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, JULY 11

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Virtual New Members' Gathering](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Wee Care](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)

Middle Youth (grades 6-12) join us for

BEACH DAY: CONEY ISLAND

Friday, July 9th @ 11:00a - 5:00p
Meet at Coney Island!

Email by July 1 to RSVP &
to receive exact location:
etiralli@middlechurch.org

all attendees must wear masks

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

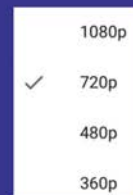
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Minister for Outreach & Media Strategy*

Rev. Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

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Shanta Thake

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- To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations, visit middlechurch.org/donate OR donate through Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch or text GIVE to (917)924-4666.
- To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts, visit middlechurch.org/Rising OR text RISE to (917)924-4666.

