

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JULY 25, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Jacqui Lewis
Richard Lewis

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

HYMN

“When O’er the Hills (Al Despuntar en la Loma el dia)” (Heber Romero)

When o’er the hills morning light is breaking,
once more your glory is born.
Filled with your joy all the fields are waking
and growing grass greets the morn.
A different day now is dawning
and yet, with fear, I am torn;
but you’re the same God each morning;
as the day dawns, I’m reborn,
but you’re the same God each morning;
as the day dawns, I’m reborn.

On the horizon the sun is blending
with hues of green coffee fields,
and from the bush there’s birdsong wending
till it a new life reveals.
The air with fragrance is swelling,
a sweet aroma I smell.
My song the heavens are telling:

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

“God indeed does all things well!”
My song the heavens are telling:
“God indeed does all things well!”

I want to be like a brook that’s flowing;
O how refreshing, such grace!
Or like the sound of soft wind blowing—
your thoughts through palm groves I’d trace.
I hear the rooster that’s crowing,
the thrilling birdsong takes wing!
My voice ascends and is flowing.
How I sing, God, how I sing!
My voice ascends and is flowing.
How I sing, God, how I sing!

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

“Siyahamba”
Terreno Burroughs

Wesley Rowell
(South African Traditional Song)

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 / 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

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Family

ANTHEM

“Feelin’ Good”
Natalie Perkins, soloist

(Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley)

SCRIPTURE The Thunder: Perfect Mind 1.5–8 Natalie Renee Perkins

I am the first and the last.
I am she who is honored and she who is mocked.
I am the whore and the holy woman.

I am the wife and the virgin.
I am he the mother and the daughter.
I am the limbs of my mother.

I am a sterile woman and she has many children.
I am she whose wedding is extravagant and I didn't have a husband.

I am the midwife and she who hasn't given birth.
I am the comfort of my labor pains.

SERMON "Who Am I?" Natalie Renee Perkins

• **RESPONDING** •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Kirsten Wyatt

OFFERTORY "Done So Much for Me" (Cynthia Gowens, arr. Raymond Wise/John Del Cueto)
Village Chorus for Children and Youth

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**
or Text GIVE to 833-786-0733

DEDICATION PRAYER Clifford Pauley

HYMN "Joyful, Joyful" (Beethoven; Warren, arr. Emerson)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir and Middle Church Choir
Samantha Waite, soloist; Matthew Johnson Harris, rapper

Joyful, joyful, Lord, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Hail Thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

BENEDICTION Natalie Renee Perkins

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: WHO AM I?

- What are your own “I am’s”? How do they reflect the complicated and rich experience of your own existence? Which “I am’s” do you show to the world? Which are just for you?
- What are the “I am’s” you hold on to for support? The “I am’s” that undergird the most important parts of yourself? What are the “I am’s” you find uncomfortable? How might you make more space for these?
- Are there “I am’s” you want to work to change? Are there new “I am’s” which are in the process of becoming or in the process of practicing to embody?

LAST WEEK: WE’VE GOT TO MAKE A MINDSET SHIFT

- What is one area of your life where you can implement an abundance mindset rather than one of scarcity? What difference would this make?
- How do white supremacy and capitalism actively work against an abundance mindset? What can we/you do about it?
- What would it look like for Middle to Rise to Abundance? What role can you take in that rising?

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, Sheila Robinson, Renee Cunningham, Marshall Drexel Cunningham, Valencia Armijio, Brittany Davis, Reddick Cunningham, Sheila Harding, Skip Reid, Amanda Ashcraft, Jacqui Lewis, Pam Payne Family, Marc Aronson Family, Mia McClain, Bridget Kelso Anthony, Devora Jones, The Raider Nation and money to rebuild Middle Collegiate Church.

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

for grades k - 5th

AUGUST 23RD-25TH

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET

MOST HOLY REDEEMER

173 E 3RD ST, NY NY 10009

rsvp by 8/15 to

ahashcraft@middlechurch.org

for grades 6-12th

AUGUST 2ND-5TH

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM ET

LES BOYS CLUB

287 E 10TH S, NY NY 10009

rsvp by 7/25 to

dhamilton@middlechurch.org



**middle
church**

FREEDOM SUMMER

Engaging our youngest changemakers in faith
formation, activism, advocacy, & the arts

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—

Giving at Middle — With summer in full bloom, we have turned the corner into our new fiscal and programming year at Middle Church (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022). Our Consistory has approved our annual budget and we the congregation have a goal to raise \$1,000,000 in contributions this year to fund our ministry programming. This brings us in line with our agreed-upon target of funding 50% of our budget by 2022. We are SO excited about what is in store for this community of love and justice seekers this year as we continue to claim and reframe Christianity from a place of Love. Period.

Please take a moment to let us know how you plan to invest in powering this movement with your gifts this year by using the options below, or feel free to reach out to our Director of Development, Devon Mosley (stewardship@middlechurch.org) to discuss your giving plans.

To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations:

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch
- Text GIVE to 833-786-0733

To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts as we continue plans for our future space:

- Visit middlechurch.org/rising
- Venmo @MiddleRising
- Text GIVE to 833-786-0733 (select Middle Rising)

To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.
50 East 7th Street, New York, NY 10003

Charitable Giving may require use of Middle Collegiate Church's EIN: 13-5564117 (aka "Ministers, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York")

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren Johnston—Consistory Chair, and the Middle Church Consistory

Middle Mixers!
In-Person Summer Gatherings • AUG 15 & SEP 21
CLICK HERE for more information

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 25

- 10:00 a.m.: [Revolutionary Parenting](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Wee Care](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment: Goodbye Party for Ms. Sandrine](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)

MONDAY, JULY 26

- 7:00 p.m.: [The Middle Players Present: The Conspiracies Are Real!!!](#)

TUESDAY, JULY 27

- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [The Middle Players Present: The Conspiracies Are Real!!!](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

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

THURSDAY, JULY 29

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Comedy Fundraiser for Middle Church](#)

FRIDAY, JULY 30

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Middle Youth](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)



Join us on Zoom!

INTERACTIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

11:45 A.M. ET | SUNDAYS
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Learn more:
middlechurch.org/summer-worship

 middle church

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

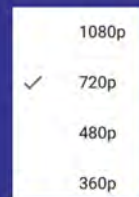
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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

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CONSISTORY

ELDERS

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Pete Grenfell

Darren Johnston CHAIR

Gerald Lazore

Hadaryah Morgan

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Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

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Thelma Boyiri

Pamela Edgar

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Dennis Barton INTERSECTIONS

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Sandra Santana

Kaede Zaitzu-Helck

- **To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations:** Visit middlechurch.org/donate • Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch • Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733**
- **To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts:** Visit middlechurch.org/rising • Venmo @MiddleRising • Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733** (select **Middle Rising**)

