

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 1, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Way Maker”

(Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu)

You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You
I worship You

You are here, working in this place
I worship You
I worship You

CHORUS

And You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

And You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

You are here, healing hearts and minds
I worship You
I worship You

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

CHORUS

Even when I don't see it, You're workin'
Even when I don't feel it, You're workin'
You never stop, You never stop workin'
You never stop, You never stop workin'

• 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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Family

Join your Middle family in break out rooms
for a moment to greet and pass the peace.

ANTHEM

"This Day"

(Edwin Hawkins)

John Del Cueto, soloist

SCRIPTURE

John 6.24–35

Chad Tanaka Pack

SERMON

"Holy Carbo-loading"

Chad Tanaka Pack

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

Ben Perry

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

Amy Levy

OFFERTORY “None Like You”

(Dionne McClain-Freeney)

In-the-Middle Choir • Dionne McClain-Freeney, soloist

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Ben Perry

HYMN

“I Lift My Voice”

(Andrea Ramsey)

John Del Cueto, leader

When I lift my voice, let it be in song
A defiant note, in the face of wrong
I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side
'Cause we know that love is always justified.

CHORUS

When they try to divide us, It will only unite us.
I lift my voice, I lift my voice

When I lift my voice, let it be for good
Let me care as much as I know I should
I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side
'Cause we know that love is always justified.

CHORUS

When I lift my voice, let it heal all wounds
Let us lift each other to the sun and moon
I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side
'Cause we know that love is always justified.

CHORUS

BENEDICTION

Chad Tanaka Pack

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleNYC.

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: HOLY CARBO-LOADING

- What do Jesus' words "I am the bread of life" mean to you? What does the sacrament of communion mean to you?
- Name a problem that has been on your heart. What are you hungering for spiritually? How might God feed your spiritual hunger?
- How might you—uniquely gifted you—work for meaningful change in the world? What is one task you will do to work for change this week?

LAST 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?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Baby Mya and parents; 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/.

Join us on Zoom!

**INTERACTIVE
WORSHIP
EXPERIENCE**

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

Learn more:
middlechurch.org/summer-worship

 middle church

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/MiddleNYC.
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, AUGUST 1

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

- 4:00 p.m.: [Youth Leadership Lab \(Gr 6–12\)](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

- 4:00 p.m.: [Youth Leadership Lab \(Gr 6–12\)](#)
- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

- 4:00 p.m.: [Youth Leadership Lab \(Gr 6–12\)](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

- 4:00 p.m.: [Youth Leadership Lab \(Gr 6–12\)](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

- 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](#)

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

4:00 PM - 6:30 PM ET

VIA

ZOOM

rsvp by 8/1 to

dhamilton@middlechurch.org



**middle
church**

FREEDOM SUMMER

Engaging our young folx in faith formation, the arts, & activism as we learn how to become just leaders



**middle
church**

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

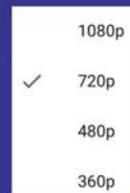
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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CONSISTORY

ELDERS

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Vickie Burns

Pete Grenfell

Darren Johnston CHAIR

Gerald Lazore

Hadaryah Morgan

Claudia Slacik

Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

DEACONS

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Deborah Berg McCarthy

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Dennis Barton INTERSECTIONS

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Linda Doria

Johanna Goepel

Vincent Parham

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**)

