

middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 22, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

"Lord, Keep Me Day by Day"

(Eddie Williams)

Dionne McClain-Freeney, leader

Lord, keep me day by day
in a pure and perfect way
I want to live, I want to live on
in a building not made by hand.

I'm just a stranger here
Traveling through this barren land
I know there's a building
A building not made by hand.

Lord, keep my body strong
so that I can do no wrong
Lord, give me grace just to run this race
to a building not made by hand.

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Elise Tiralli

MIDDLE RISING

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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

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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Family

Join your Middle family in break-out rooms to pass the peace.

ANTHEM

"I Am Light"

(India Arie)

Nami Kagami, dancer; Ann Wazelle, singer; Tami Petty, guitarist

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6.10–20

Victor Greene

SERMON

"Soft Armor"

Victor Greene

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Natalie Perkins

OFFERTORY "I Know I've Been Changed"

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

(Trad. African Am Spiritual/
arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney)

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

"God Be With You"

(Trad.)

Andreas Vaagt, leader

God be with you
God be with you
God be with you
Till we meet again.

BENEDICTION

Victor Greene

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: SOFT ARMOR

- Someone once said, “Clothing makes community.” Think about your everyday life. How do you and your community literally and or figuratively wear truth, righteousness, and peace?
- Be creative. Choose one:
 - a) What other garments would you add to wear that are at our disposal to help us rise and withstand evil we see in our world? And why?
 - b) Instead of a Roman Soldier, what other template might we use to imagine how we should stand?
- Paul said, “Pray also for me ...” What might a letter from those in prisons today say to us about withstanding evil? What does it mean for us to pray for those in prison today?

LAST WEEK: PEACE AIN’T EASY BUT IT’S HOW WE RISE

- What does a world flourishing in peace look like?
- What would it look like to rise in peace—in yourself—in your community—in our country—in our world—and as Middle Church?
- White supremacy and capitalism hinder the peace God designed for us. What are other barriers and hindrances to God’s peace?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

I rejoice in the family I have found in Middle Church; for my beloveds; Jools Woodward; 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 Mia McClain Bridget Kelso Anthony Joe Tigner Robert Cunningham Vallory Leca Devora Jones Louise Tatum Michael Boss 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/.

INTERACTIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Join us on Zoom!

11:45 A.M. ET • SUNDAYS IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Learn more: middlechurch.org/summer-worship

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 Mixer!
In-Person Summer Gathering • 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 22

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:30 a.m.: [Rev. Natalie on the Run Worship](#)
[Viewing: Prospect Park, Brooklyn](#)
(cancelled in the event of rain)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

- 3:00 p.m.: [Kids Freedom Summer Camp](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

- 3:00 p.m.: [Kids Freedom Summer Camp](#)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

- 3:00 p.m.: [Kids Freedom Summer Camp](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

- *New Adventures on hiatus for August*
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:30 a.m.: [Rev. Natalie on the Run Worship](#)
[Viewing: Fort Tryon Park, Manhattan](#)
(cancelled in the event of rain)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive 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

**FREEDOM
SUMMER**

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



**middle
church**

rsvp by 8/15 to
ahashcraft@middlechurch.org



**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

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Darren Johnston CHAIR

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Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

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- **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**)

