

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 29, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Holy Are You, Lord”

(Joseph Pace II)

Dionne McClain-Freeney, leader

Oh, how marvelous You are to me, and holy are You, Lord
Desperately, I long for more of Thee, and holy are You, Lord
Oh, the beauty of Your holiness
You, I worship and adore
Let the nations now declare Your worth
Holy are You, Lord

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

MIDDLE RISING

Monique Fortuné

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

Monique Fortuné

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.

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

ANTHEM	“Cupid” Tony&Aly, duet	(Aly Palmer)
SCRIPTURE	Song of Songs 1.2–2.3	Catherine Torpey
SERMON	“Beckoning Us to Liberation”	Catherine Torpey

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Daryl Douglas

OFFERTORY “Imperfect Me” (Dionne McClain-Freeney)
Sarah Griffiths and Tami Petty, duet

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

DEDICATION PRAYER Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN “Lovely Day” (B. Withers, K. Franklin; arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

When I wake up in the morning, love
And my heart is filled with pain
The smile I had upon my face is gone
Can't see the sunshine from the rain

When I think of You
Then the world's alright with me
Lord, just one thought of You
And I know it's gonna be

A lovely day
(Lovely day, lovely day, lovely day, lovely day)
(Lovely day, lovely day, lovely day, lovely day)

Jesus, You're the lover of my soul
The fire that burns deep within
You are the joy this world can't take away
This spiritual love affair, it will never end

When I think of You
Then the world's alright with me
When I think of You
Then the world's alright with me

Lord, just one thought of You
And I know it's gonna be

A lovely day
(Lovely day, lovely day, lovely day, lovely day)
(Lovely day, lovely day, lovely day)

BENEDICTION

Catherine Torpey

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: BECKONING US TO LIBERATION

- What are the passions in your life which you might celebrate or honor more than you do? Try writing your own Song of Songs to celebrate what makes the blood pump in your veins!
 - Does your way of reading scripture liberate you to “rise to fierce love”? Why or why not?
 - How does (or might) loving your whole self (including your body and its needs and desires) help you to do the work of justice in the world?
-

LAST 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?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Jools Woodward; Lorraine, Uncle Seve, Aunt Jackie; 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 Bos Connie Acquaah Haiti 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/.

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 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 Watch Party: Fort Tryon Park, Manhattan](#)
(cancelled in the event of rain)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:00 p.m.: [Why Not Care Back to School Event for the LES/EV](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 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.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)



1. LITTLE FLOWER PARK
Madison St. & Jefferson St,
New York, NY 10002

2. EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
737 E 6th St,
New York, NY 10009

3. PS/MS 34
730 E 12th St
New York, NY 10009

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

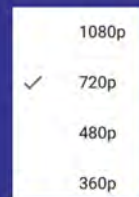
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

Rev. Darrell Hamilton – *Executive Minister for Operations and Resource Development*

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

Rev. Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

SANCTUARY	112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.)	Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
OFFICE	50 East 7th Street New York, NY 10003	Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis YouTube.com/MiddleNYC
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E-MAIL	middleinfo@middlechurch.org	Twitter.com/middlechurch
WEBSITE	middlechurch.org	Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.
Ivan Anderson
Vickie Burns
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Darren Johnston CHAIR
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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**)

