

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE
9/11 COMMEMORATION

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Gloria Moy

HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (C. Winkworth/J. Neander/W. Chenoweth)
Drew Wutke, pianist

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, our God of creation!
Let us sing praises to God for our health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to God’s temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under Love’s wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen how your desires have been
met by God’s gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
And surely goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from God’s people again;
gladly forever adore him.

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

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Ben Perry

MIDDLE RISING

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

Honoring First Responders

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

"Together"

(K. Franklin, J. Smallbone, L. Smallbone, R. Jackson,
J. Kerr, R. Jackson; arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Kristina Nicole Miller, Ivan Anderson, leads

SCRIPTURE

Odes of Solomon 8.1–7

Natalie Renee Perkins

SERMON

"Tips on How to Get Unstuck"

Natalie Renee Perkins

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Jocelyn Lieu

OFFERTORY

"Dancing in the Street/Boogie Fever"

(M. Gaye, I. Hunger, W. Stevenson,

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

F. Perren, K. St. Lewis; arr. J. Del Cueto)

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Elise Tiralli

HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

(Traditional)

Drew Wutke, pianist

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine. ...

All through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine. ...

BENEDICTION

Natalie Renee Perkins

POSTLUDE

"I Am America"

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

(K. L. Bates, S. A. Ward, S. Diamond, S. Germanotta,

J. Laursen; arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney)

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: TIPS ON HOW TO GET UNSTUCK

- How do you honor and move forward?
 - Where do you find joy in our fight?
 - What is stuck in your body? How can you release it?
-

LAST WEEK: LOVE DEMANDS A LABOR YEAR

- What would it look like to live in an economy of abundance? How would it feel?
 - Our working rights were won through collective action. How can we build that kind of solidarity now?
 - Jesus said "put down your nets" as an instruction to abandon predatory economic systems. What nets is God calling you to put down?
-

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Myhang; 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 Aschraft Jacqui Lewis Pam Payne Family Marc Aronson Mia McClain Bridget Kelso Anthony Joe Tigner Robert Cunningham Vallory Leca Devora Jones Louise Tatum Michael Boss Connie Acquah 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 • 6:00 PM • St. Nicholas Park
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, SEPTEMBER 12

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:30 a.m.: [Rev. Amanda on the Run Worship Watch Party: Gantry Plaza State Park, Queens](#) (cancelled in the event of rain)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 2:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos!](#)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 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 Watch Party: 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.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

Middle Church Homecoming

CLICK HERE for more information

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JUST LOVE

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*

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CONSISTORY

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Darren Johnston CHAIR

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Claudia Slacik

Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

DEACONS

Edna Benitez

Deborah Berg McCarthy

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- **To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts:** Visit middlechurch.org/rising • Venmo @MiddleRising • Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733** (select **Middle Rising**)

