

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

OCTOBER 24, 2021 • 11:45 AM • HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

• GATHERING •

PRELUDE

Dionne McClain-Freeney

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

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:
“God indeed does all things well!”

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

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

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

“Siyahamba / Marcharemos”

(Based on a South African Traditional Song)

Marcharemos en la luz de Dios,
marcharemos en la luz de Dios.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

MIDDLE RISING

Jacqui Lewis

Paul Devlin, Voter Reform Group

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD’S PRAYER

Jacqui Lewis

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

(Trad.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Family

When the God in us sees the God in our neighbor, we bow to them, and say, Namaste.
Please place your palms together and share a sign of peace and acknowledgement
with your neighbors (a none-touch passing of the peace). Thank you!

ANTHEM

“Gracias a la vida (Thank you to life)”

(Violeta Parra)

Natalie Maust, soloist

*Thank you to life that has given me so much.
It gave me two beams of light, and when I open them,
I perfectly distinguish black from white,
And in the highest heaven, its starry depths,
And among the multitude, the one that I love.*

*Thank you to life that has given me so much.
It gave me a heart, that beats in its frame,
When I see the fruit of the human brain,
When I see good so far away from evil,
When I look into the depths of your clear eyes.*

*Thank you to life that has given me so much.
It gave me hearing that, in all of its breadth,
Records—night and day—crickets and canaries,
Hammers, turbines, howls, and cloudbursts,
And the tender voice of my beloved.*

*Thank you to life that has given me so much.
It gave me the stride of my tired feet.
With them I have traversed cities and puddles,
Valleys and deserts, mountains and plains,
And your house, your street and your patio.*

*Thank you to life that has given me so much.
It gave me laughter and it gave me tears.
That’s how I distinguish joy from brokenness—
The two materials that form my song,
And your song, which is the same song.
And everyone’s song, which is my own song.*

Thank you to life. Thank you to life. Thank you to life. Thank you to life

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10.46–52

Damaris Whittaker

SERMON

“Buscando a America (Searching for America)”

Damaris Whittaker

• **RESPONDING** •**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Patrick Love

OFFERTORY

“Gloria”

(Juan Luis Guerra)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Riqi Vélez, soloist

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @[MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)
or Text GIVE to 833-786-0733

DEDICATION PRAYER

Ben Perry

HYMN

“Si tú puedes, cántalo (Everybody, sing it out)”

(Victor Jortack; Trans: Bret Hesla, William Dexheimer-Pharris; arr. John del Cueto)

REFRAIN

Si tú puedes, cántalo, cántalo, cántalo.

Si tú puedes, cántalo, cántalo al Señor.

When the first new light of the rising sun
comes to wake the colors of dawn,
as you stand in beauty may you be shown
you're a part of that ancient song.

REFRAIN

When your heart is heavy may you discover
new hope in every child,
and may you be filled with unexpected joy
in the miracle of their smiles.

REFRAIN

May you pause to listen enough to hear
you are not alone in your song,
and may you learn to follow the melody
of our God's creative love.

REFRAIN

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

Dionne McClain-Freeney

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

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • John Del Cueto–Director • Dionne McClain-Freeney, keyboards

Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker is senior minister at Fort Washington Collegiate Church. Rev. Whittaker believes she has been called to break down silos and sees intersectionality of faith as a place she can affect change.

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: BUSCANDO A AMERICA (SEARCHING FOR AMERICA)

- How do the themes of peace dignity and quality inform how we heal the world?
 - What actions can you take right now to help find America or help America find herself?
-

THIS WEEK: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

- Love self: How?
- Love neighbor: How better?
- Love the world: What does this mean today?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Gisele Bündchen Kathryn, Bridget Moynahan; 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 Acquaaah Darrell Hamilton Cori Margolin 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/.



[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

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.

GIVING AT MIDDLE—

Dear Middle Family —

The crisp fall air is here and we are moving into our season of Fierce Love! The Consistory approved our annual budget in June and we kicked off our fiscal and programming year July 1, 2021. **As a congregation we have a goal to raise 50% of the annual budget, which is \$1,000,000 in contributions this year to fund our ministry programming. To date, we have received \$247,886.81.**

We are so grateful for the ways you show up to power this ministry and would love to hear what your pledge plans may be for this year. Please take a moment to let us know how you plan to invest in this movement this year by using the options below, or by reaching out to our Stewardship Director, Devon Mosley (stewardship@middlechurch.org) to discuss your giving plan.

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.

Love—

Jacqui, Darren Johnston—Consistory Chair, and the entire Middle Church Consistory

To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations:

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @[MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://venmo.com/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](https://venmo.com/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")

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, OCTOBER 24

- 10:00 a.m.: [Revolutionary Parenting](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [October New Member Gathering](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [November 2nd Election Q & A](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Meal Program](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Middle Players Fall Show: How I'm Getting Through COVID: A New Play](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 7:00 p.m.: [Reparations Listening Circle 2 – Option B](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Well Read Black Girl Festival — Jacqui Lewis in Conversation with Glory Edim](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 7:00 p.m.: [Jacqui Lewis Author Talk with Pastor Beth Brown](#)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

- 9:30 a.m.: [Congregational Meeting](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Trick or Treat on the Steps at Calvary](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Meal Program](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)



The Butterfly ministry has returned! Volunteers gather every Sunday at 2:00 PM ET after worship at Second Avenue and Houston Street. Each volunteer brings 5–10 completed sack lunches which each include:

- a sandwich
- piece of fruit
- granola bar
- juice box or water

Volunteers will prepare the lunches in their own kitchens with gloves and face masks worn for safety protocols. Volunteers will be reimbursed for purchases through Middle Church's outreach funds. Lunches will be distributed throughout Sara Roosevelt Park from Houston to Canal Street.

Please click here for more information or to sign-up.

Fall Worship: In-Person & Virtual!

SUNDAYS at 11:45 AM
CLICK HERE for more information

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

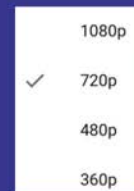
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

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