

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 • 11:00 AM •

FIERCE LOVE SUNDAY AT
THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

• GATHERING •

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

CARILLON Preludes (Matthias van den Gheyn)
Charles Semowich, carillonneur

ORGAN “Élévation Dom” (Paul Benoit)
“Psalm Prelude No. 1” (Herbert Howells)
Cynthia Powell, organist

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY Rev. Michael Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Jim Keat

One: O wonderful God, your steadfast love never ceases.

All: Your mercies are endless without measure.

One: Every morning, you wake us with your love.

All: Great is your faithfulness. Great is your love!

One: We gather together to praise your great name.

All: May the gift of your love inspire us to love ourselves and one another fiercely. Let us worship and share in God’s love.

INVOCATION Rev. Jim Keat

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

HYMN

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

(Charles Wesley; John Darwall)

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail,
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints
For their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

• LISTENING •

We listen for the word of God through song, Scripture, and preaching

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Michael Livingston

In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

“Jesus Promised”

(Timothy W. Carpenter)

Riverside Inspirational Choir • Nedra Olds-Neal, director

Matt King, piano; Tash Neal, bass; Jonathon Peretz, percussion

EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 4.17–21

Samuel Coleman

HYMN

“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

(Robert Baggart Young Scott; St. Michael)

O day of God, draw nigh
In beauty and in power;
Come with thy timeless judgment now
To match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds,
Uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith,
Calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land,
That all may dwell secure,
And finely build for days to come
Foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife
Thy sovereign word of peace,
That war may haunt the earth no more,
And desolation cease.

O day of God, draw nigh
As at creation’s birth;
Let there be light again,
And set thy judgments on the earth.

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 139

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

SERMON “Love at First Sight”

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• **RESPONDING** •

We respond to the hearing of God’s word through prayer,
passing the peace, offering and monthly communion

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Michael Livingston

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the language or version of your heart.

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Save us from the time of trial, deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Jim Keat

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Dr. Emily Anderson

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "O Praise God in God's Holiness"

(Wilfred J. Emery)

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Jim Keat

HYMN "O Christ, the Great Foundation" (Timothy T'ingfang Lew, trans. Frank W. Price;
Samuel Sebastian Wesley)

O Christ, the great foundation
On which your people stand
To preach Your true salvation
In every age and land:
Pour out Your Holy Spirit
To make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken
As long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession,
One church in all the earth,
We bear our Lord's impression,
The sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered
In love beyond our own,
By grace we were invited,
By grace we make You known.

Where tyrants' hold is tightened,
Where strong devour the weak,
Where innocents are frightened,
The righteous fear to speak,
There let Your church awaking
Attack the powers of sin
And, all their ramparts breaking,
With You the victory win.

This is the moment glorious
When He who once was dead
Shall lead His church victorious,
Their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation
His heavenly kingdom brings,
The final consummation,
The glory of all things.

• SENDING •

We are sent out into the world to love God and our neighbors

BENEDICTION

Rev. Michael Livingston

POSTLUDE

Carillon, Opus 31, No. 21
Christopher Creaghan, organist

(Louis Vierne)

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

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Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

“We must fight our way to loving ourselves in a context that views too many of us as unworthy of love. And we must love our selves in order to love our neighbor. This is the command from Rabbi Jesus to his followers. We are compelled to do so, on the way to healing the world.” — Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

LAST WEEK: THIS WEEK: WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

- Have you ever had trouble loving yourself? What made it hard? How do you get your love-jones back? It’s OK if that is a work in progress!
- Who is your most difficult neighbor to love? What can you do that can make that better?
- How can you turn ferocious courage and rule-breaking kindness onto the world?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Lucien, Holland; 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 Ben Perry 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 \$286,218.52.**

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.
240 East 10th Street—Suite 8C, 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, NOVEMBER 14

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- **11:00 a.m.:** [Special Worship Time and Location: Fierce Love—A Celebration at Riverside Church](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Meal Program](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 7:00 p.m.: [Grief Amid Glad Tidings: Holding Sadness At the Holidays](#)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Freedom Rising Salon: Rising to Fierce Love for Ourselves and the World](#)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 10:00 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](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Children's Multicultural Book Day](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Meal Program](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

Middle Collegiate Church's 5th Annual

CHILDREN'S MULTICULTURAL BOOK DAY



sunday,
november 21
2:00-4:00pm



JOIN US FOR OUR BELOVED
FREE ANNUAL EVENT!
ONLINE BOOK SALES

live author readings
arts & crafts
social justice
raffles & prizes
grades k-8th focused,
but all invited!

IN-PERSON AT 145 W 28TH ST, FL 11
NEW YORK, NY (& VIRTUALLY, TOO!)



CLICK for more info

Fall Worship: In-Person & Virtual!

SUNDAYS at 11:45 AM
CLICK HERE for more information

MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

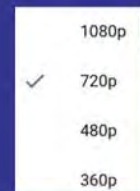
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your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

SANCTUARY	112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.)	Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
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WEBSITE	middlechurch.org	Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

CONSISTORY

ELDERS

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Ivan Anderson
Vickie Burns
Pete Grenfell
Darren Johnston CHAIR
Gerald Lazore
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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**)