

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 • 11:45 AM • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

The Goepel Enlow Family

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

(Dan Schutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.

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

I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Hambrick Ashcraft Family

“Siyahamba”

(South African Traditional Song)

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

MIDDLE RISING

Darrell Hamilton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD’S PRAYER

Darrell Hamilton

“My Lord, What a Mornin’”

Middle Church Choir • Branch Woodman, lead • Jonathan Dudley, conductor

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

“What Shall I Render”

(Margaret Douroux)

Gospel Ensemble

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33.14–16

Jacqui Lewis

SERMON

“Between ‘Now’ and ‘Not Yet’”

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Linda Begega

OFFERTORY “O Give Thanks”

(Judith Christie McAllister)

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘round”

(Trad.)

Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me ‘round,
Turn me round, turn me round,
Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me round,
I’m gonna keep on a-walkin’, keep on a-talkin’,
Marching on to freedom land.

Ain’t gonna let racism turn me ‘round ...

Ain’t gonna let injustice turn me ‘round...

Ain’t gonna let oppression turn me ‘round...

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

Middle Church Band

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

Gospel Ensemble • John Del Cueto–Director

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney–Director, keyboards; Bernice Brooks, drums; BAASSIK, Bass guitar.

“Here I Am, Lord” • Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

As we seek to true liberation for all of God’s people, Darren, the Consistory, the Staff, and I want to hear YOUR truth. How is it going for you? What are your dreams for Middle Church and what can you imagine doing to realize them? **Please scan the code at right with your smartphone camera. It’s SO important to us that you complete this survey** — only one time, please — and respond by the end of the day today, **Sunday, November 28**. It will take about five minutes. Thank you in advance. —*Jacqui*



Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: BETWEEN 'NOW' AND 'NOT YET'

- What's your dream for tomorrow?
 - What promise do you want God to keep?
 - What are you willing to do to partner with God?
-

LAST WEEK: SAY MY NAME CHANGES MY NARRATIVE

- If we are intentional and purposeful in our spirit walk with God, why is it so difficult to see the truth and still believe the lies?
- Let's change the narrative for trans people, queer people, black brown people creating a safe space in our Middle family and carrying the truthful narrative to world.
- Fatal violence against transgender and gender non-conforming community in 2021:
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2021>

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Aiyana Stern; Allen Singleton; Deb Williams; Ruth Guerrero and family; 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 Acquah Darrell Hamilton Ben Perry Cori Margolin Joy Rosenthal 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/.



**Commemorate One-Year
After the Middle Church Fire**

Sunday, December 5, 11:45 a.m. ET

Join a pilgrimage from Calvary to the building site
Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, preaching

All Day: Make an Offering
Bring flowers, a photo, or other objects
and lay them on the construction fence

Learn More: middlechurch.org/one-year

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 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 \$303,675.92.**

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
- 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.
240 East 10th Street—Suite 8C, New York, NY 10003

DONATE BY PHONE

To make a donation to Middle Church, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.



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 28

First Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- 7:00 p.m.: [Fierce Love: An Advent Study](#)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
 - 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
 - 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Second Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Special Worship Celebration at Calvary and Pilgrimage to Middle Church Sanctuary](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew: Grief on the Anniversary of the Fire](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Middle Church events, activities, and the latest updates, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.



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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Instagram.com/revjacquilewis

Twitter.com/middlechurch

Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

