

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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DECEMBER 12, 2021 • 11:45 AM • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Tynisha, Elijah, Amara, and Michaiah

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(Trad.; arr. John Del Cueto)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

• REFLECTING •

MIDDLE RISING

Jacqui Lewis

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

**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**

“Emmanuel”

(Norman Hutchins, Jason White)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

**SCRIPTURE**

Zephaniah 3.14–20

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**SERMON**

“Wombs, Wounds, and Waiting”

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Adwoa Asare

**OFFERTORY**

“A Child Is Born”

(Thad Jones, Alec Wilder)

Amina Theis, soloist

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**  
or Text GIVE to 833-786-0733

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

Sandra Santana

**HYMN**

“One Foot/Lead with Love”

(Melanie DeMore)

CHORUS

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love  
Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.  
You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love  
Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.

*Leader*

ALL

*Don't give up hope*

Don't give up hope

*You're not alone  
Don't you give up  
Keep movin' on*

You're not alone  
Don't you give up  
Keep movin' on

CHORUS

*Leader  
Lift up your eyes  
Don't you despair  
Look up ahead  
The path is there*

ALL  
Lift up your eyes  
Don't you despair  
Look up ahead  
The path is there

CHORUS

*Leader  
I know you're scared  
And I'm scared too  
But here I am  
Right next to you*

ALL  
I know you're scared  
And I'm scared too  
But here I am  
Right next to you

CHORUS

**BENEDICTION**

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**POSTLUDE**

Middle Church Band

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

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**Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • John Del Cueto–Director**

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

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[middlechurch.org/advent-and-christmas-at-middle/](https://middlechurch.org/advent-and-christmas-at-middle/)

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## Sermon in Action

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### THIS WEEK: WOUNDS, WOMBS, AND WAITING

- Knowing that God is in our midst, how might we approach political conversations around guns and reproductive rights?
  - How might we wait — as we are called to in the season of Advent — faithfully?
  - Is our faith intersectional? Should it be?
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### LAST WEEK: FOUND IN THE FIRE

- In the midst of all the fires this past year—the pandemic, painful discourse in the public square, and our sanctuary fire—what did you find?

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

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.**

Oxford High School; Jason Williamson; Liz and her 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 Acquaah Darrell Hamilton Ben Perry 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/](http://middlechurch.org/prayer/).



[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

# Welcome to Middle Church

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**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](http://middlechurch.org).

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

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**VIDEOS AND PODCASTS** — Worship music and sermon videos: [youtube.com/MiddleNYC](https://youtube.com/MiddleNYC).  
Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: [facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch).  
Middle Church podcast: [middlechurch.org/podcasts](http://middlechurch.org/podcasts).

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## 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 \$332,893.34.**

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

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All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org) for details and the latest updates.

**Registration for all programming ends 1 hour before the event begins, so be sure to RSVP!**

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**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.

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## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

### Third Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m.: [Winter Coat Drive](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [December New Members Gathering](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Queer Holiday 'Tude](#)

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs Carol Lessons](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Freedom Rising Salon: Rising to a Moral Economy](#)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 1:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Project Caroling](#)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

### Second Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration with Children's Christmas Pageant](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

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



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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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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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[Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://www.facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)

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