

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 19, 2021 • 11:45 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

• GATHERING •

PRELUDE

Dionne McClain-Freeney

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Alice Dietz and Teddy Baptiste

HYMN

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

(West Indian Traditional)

The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

REFRAIN

He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer!
Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

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

The angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

REFRAIN

The wise men saw where the baby born,
the wise men saw where the baby born,
the wise men went where the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

REFRAIN

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Christmas Pageant

MIDDLE RISING

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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

"This Is Me"

(Benj Pasek and Justin Paul)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Caelyn Osbern and Madge Dietrich, soloists

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1.46b–55

Ellington Tanner

SERMON

"Simply Magnificent What God Can Do!"

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Lucien Tanner

OFFERTORY "Ain't a That a Rockin'"

(Trad. Spiritual)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN "Children Go Where I Send Thee"

(Trad.)

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee
One by one, one for the little bitty baby
Was born, born, born in Bethlehem

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee
Two by two, two for Paul and Silas
One for the little bitty baby
Was born, born, born in Bethlehem

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee
Three by three, three for the Hebrew children
Two for Paul and Silas
One for the little bitty baby
Was born, born, born in Bethlehem

... Four by four, four for the four that stood at the door

... Five by five, five for the gospel preachers

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

Dionne McClain-Freeney

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

Musician • Dionne McClain-Freeney, keyboards.



Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: SIMPLY MAGNIFICENT WHAT GOD CAN DO!

- God blessed Mary, filling her hunger with good things. What are you hungry for in terms of blessings?
 - Does the image of being pregnant with love resonate with you? How so?
 - What metaphor works for you in terms of bearing fierce love in the world?
-

LAST 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?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Lorraine, Joe, Uncle Seve, Aunt Jackie; Jason Clark, Andre Nogueira-Kourkoulis; 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 Cori Margolin Mattie Russell Catherine Vail 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/.



middlechurch.org/advent-and-christmas-at-middle/

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 \$378,812.17.**

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, DECEMBER 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m.: [Winter Coat Drive](#)
- 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.: [Holiday Craft for Families at Calvary](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:30 p.m.: [Youth Holiday Party: Reindeer Games](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 9:00 p.m.: [Middle Christmas Eve Worship Celebration at Marble Church](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

First Sunday of Christmas

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Virtual Worship Celebration](#) — **NO in-person worship celebration!**
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)

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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New York, NY 10003

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E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org

WEBSITE middlechurch.org

[Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

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

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[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://www.instagram.com/revjacquilewis)

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