

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 26, 2021 • 11:45 AM • FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP
WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child” (Trad.; arr. J. Del Cueto, D. McClain-Freeney)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Shari Gill, soloist

CHORUS

Jesus, Jesus, Oh what a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope to all he brings
Listen to the angels sing.
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn king!

He was herald by the angels
Born in a lowly manger
The virgin Mary was His mother
And Joseph was His earthly father
Three wise men came from afar
They were guided by the shining star
To see King Jesus where he lay
In a manger filled with hay.

CHORUS

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

“Siyahamba”

Jacqui Lewis

(South African Traditional Song)

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

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

MIDDLE RISING

Monique Fortuné

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Nada te turbe”

(Joan Syzmko)

Middle Church Choir

LORD’S PRAYER

Monique Fortuné

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

“Awaiting You”

(Adam Guettel)

Tituss Burgess, soloist; Terris Krueger, accompanist

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3.12–17

Ben Perry

SERMON

“Love IS Enough”

Ben Perry

• **RESPONDING** •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Devon Mosley

OFFERTORY

“Grateful”

(Tituss Burgess)

Art & Soul Chorus • Angela Birchett, soloist

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @[@MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

DEDICATION PRAYER

John Del Cueto

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

(Traditional)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
The glory of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: LOVE IS ENOUGH

- As you listen to the sermon, reflect on this theme: It feels like compassion and kindness aren't enough to overcome the evil we face, but actually they're the only things that can. God could have come as a conquering army, but manifested as vulnerable love instead. What does this vulnerable fierce love have for us in this season?

LAST 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?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Karen Weiss and William Weiss; Dana, Lenny, and Leo; Lorraine, Joe, Uncle Seve, Aunt Jackie; Aunt Dolores 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 Acquaah Darrell Hamilton Ben Perry Catherine Vail Cori Margolin Self Love Jessi Matei 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/.

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

To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts as we continue plans for our future space:

- Visit middlechurch.org/rising
- Venmo @MiddleRising

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")

DONATE BY PHONE

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



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 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](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

- 6:00 p.m.: [Virtual New Year's Eve Worship Celebration](#)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 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.



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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