

# middle church



JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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JANUARY 2, 2022 • 11:45 AM • SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Join us for a rebroadcast of Sunday, January 3, 2021.*

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Darren Johnston

**HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(John Francis Wade)

Middle Church Choir

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

REFRAIN

O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

REFRAIN

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

• REFLECTING •

**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**

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**ANTHEM**

“Hark”

(I. Houghton, L. Hanes; arr. J. Watson)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 2.1–12

Natalie Perkins

**SERMON**

“Home by Another Road”

Natalie Perkins

• RESPONDING •

**COMMUNION**

Jacqui Lewis

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink. It can be bread and wine; crackers and grape juice; pancakes and coffee; French toast and mimosas; a piece of fruit and water. Everyone can participate, from the youngest to the oldest.

You will be invited to consecrate those ordinary elements with prayer, and the words of institution. And then we will eat together and drink together, communing with each other and with the Living God. You are welcome, just as you are, to participate in this special ritual of Grace and Love.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Devon Mosley

**OFFERTORY**

“Blessings Medley”

(J. Oatman, M. Douroux)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Deborah Berg McCarthy, lead

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

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

Chad Tanaka Pack

## HYMN

“Let Your Little Light Shine”

(Trad.; arr. Pamela Warrick-Smith)

Jacqui Lewis, leader

LEADER

CONGREGATION

*Let your little light*

Shine, shine, shine

*Let your little light*

Shine, oh my Lord,

*There might be*

Someone down in the valley tryin’ to get home.

## BENEDICTION

Natalie Perkins

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

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## Sermon in Action

### THIS WEEK: HOME BY ANOTHER ROAD

- What can we learn that we wouldn’t have experienced if we didn’t have to go home by another road?
- How can we live more fully into what God is calling us to do because our path is now different?
- What have we learned in 2020 that sends us on our journey home a different way?

### LAST 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?

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

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

Aunt Dolores; Joel Di’ort; Aujanae Jeffrey; Dillon Padarath; 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 Aschraft 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 Cori Margolin Joy Rosenthal Dolly Catherine Vail Jessie 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/](https://middlechurch.org/prayer/).

# 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 \$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](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

**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

**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

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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, 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](#)

## MONDAY, JANUARY 3

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

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

- 6:00 p.m.: [Seeking Stained Glass Softness](#)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

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

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

- 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.: [Virtual Worship Celebration](#) — **NO in-person worship celebration!**
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 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.



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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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