

middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JANUARY 9, 2022 • 11:45 AM • EPIPHANY / BAPTISM OF JESUS

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

"I Am Light"

(India.Arie)

Alyson Palmer, singer • Tony Salvatore, guitar
Adrienne Hurd and Lutin Tanner, dancers

I am light, I am light
I am light, I am light

I am not the color of my eyes
I am not the skin outside
I am not my age, I am not my race
My soul inside, is all light.
All light, all light, all light, all light

I am light, I am light
I am light, I am light

I am divinity defined
I am God inside
I am a star, a piece of it all, I am light

• REFLECTING •

MIDDLE RISING

Jacqui Lewis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE "Mary, Did You Know?"

(Mark Lowry; Buddy Greene)

Madge Dietrich, singer • Drew Wutke, piano

LORD'S PRAYER

Jacqui Lewis

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

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

“Feelin’ Good”

(Leslie Bricusse; Anthony Newley)

Natalie Perkins, soloist; Terris Krueger, accompanist

SCRIPTURE

John 1.1–9

Natalie Perkins

SERMON

“Into the Unknown”

Natalie Perkins

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Ivan Anderson and Dominique Lee

OFFERTORY

“A Million Dreams”

(Benj Pasek and Justin Paul)

Madge Dietrich, singer • Drew Wutke, piano

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**

DEDICATION PRAYER

Ben Perry

HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful” from *Sister Act 2*

(Christina Harmon; arr. Mervyn Warren)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Madge Dietrich, Maurice Murphy, soloists;
Matthew Johnson Harris, rapper

Joyful, Joyful, Lord, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Hail Thee as the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin, sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Drive it away, drive it away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us, Fill us with the light of day,
Light of day!

Come and join the chorus
The mighty, mighty chorus

Which the morning stars began
The Father of love is reigning over us
He watches over everything
So we sing

Joyful, Joyful, Lord, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Hail Thee as the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin, sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Drive it away, drive it away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us, Fill us with the light of day,
Light of day!

BENEDICTION

Darrell Hamilton

POSTLUDE

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: INTO THE UNKNOWN

- What unknowns are you walking into this new year?
- How do you plan to face them?

LAST 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?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Will and Sara Knueve; 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 Joy
Rosenthal Dolly Catherine Vail Jessie Matei Natalie Perkins Damaris Whittaker and The Raider
Nation to get into the playoffs.

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 —

Happy New Year! We're making good strides on achieving our congregational goal of \$1,050,000 in contributions (that's 50% of our operating budget) this year to fund our ministry programming. **We're at the half-way mark in our programming and fiscal year and, to date, we have received \$523,005.** We are so grateful for the ways you show up to power this ministry which allows us to continue being love in action to heal our world!

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 contacting 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 in 2022 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, 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)
- 6:00 p.m.: [Seeking Stained Glass Softness](#)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 5:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos! Happy Hour](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [New Members Gathering](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men in the Middle](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Congregational Meeting](#)
- 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](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [How to Build Beloved Community with Fierce Love](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Church Office Holiday**

- 12:00–1:30 p.m.: **MLK Day of Service: Rising for Child Literacy** — Education of children was a key component to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of beloved community. Come by Middle Church (50 East 7th St.) to donate new or gently used children's books that will be delivered to a local organization in need. You can also post a note describing your "dream" for beloved community.

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

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