

middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

MARCH 6, 2022 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

• GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Bless the Lord with Me”

(Darwin Hobbs)

Bless the Lord with me
Bless the Lord with me
Bless the Lord with me
Bless the Lord with me.

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah

• REFLECTING •

MIDDLE RISING

Ben Perry

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”

Middle Church Choir • Melissa Casey José, soloist (Trad.; arr. P. Baskin-Watson)

LORD'S PRAYER

Ben Perry

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.**

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

CONGREGATIONAL AMEN

Rising Sun

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Family

ANTHEM "Up to the Mountain"
Samantha Waite, soloist

(Patty Griffin)

SCRIPTURE Luke 4.1–13

Jacqui Lewis

SERMON "Testing, Testing, 123"

Jacqui Lewis

• **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.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Darren Johnston

OFFERTORY "You're My Joy"

(Tituss Burgess)

Natalie Perkins, soloist • Pilar Milhollen, dancer

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Darrell Hamilton

HYMN "Guide My Feet" (Trad. Spiritual; arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney, John Del Cueto)
Jessica Baen, Wesley Rowell, Tina Owens, Matthew Ackerman, leaders

Guide my feet while I run this race
Guide my feet while I run this race, Lord
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race ...

Stand by me while I run this race ...
I'm your child while I run this race ...
Search my heart while I run this race ...
Guide my feet while I run this race ...

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: TESTING, TESTING 123

- Jesus' testing in Luke's gospel depicts him as a model Jewish human being. What does it teach you about being human?
- As we consider how to "wade in the wilderness," during Lent, what does Jesus' response to testing teach us about both being still and building a movement?
- As the living body of Jesus, how does our partnership with God give us tools to heal the world?

LAST WEEK: CHANGED

- God is present to the world as presence, as Shekinah, as glory that liberates. What does that glory compel us to do as a people?
- The glory comes down off the mountain and resides in first in the tabernacle, traveling around with God's people. What did this past two years teach you about God's ability to be present, on the move?
- If you are the temple/tabernacle of the Holy—of the Glory—how might that propel you in to a strong, bold, fierce faith?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Peggy Kapsner; Christopher McCleod; Katy Lucid; 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 Cori Margolin Joy Rosenthal Dolly Catherine Vail Jessie Matei Ukraine 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 —

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 well beyond the half-way mark in our programming and fiscal year and, to date, we have received \$662,355.76.** 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, MARCH 6

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Digital Worship Celebration](#) —
NO in-person worship celebration
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Daughters of Eve Film Screening & Panel Conversation](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)

MONDAY, MARCH 7

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 9:00 p.m.: [Just Be](#)

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

- 7:00 p.m.: [#bellhookstaughtme: a five-week celebration of her work](#)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

- 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](#)

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

- 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, MARCH 13

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Digital Worship Celebration](#) —
NO in-person worship celebration
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children](#)

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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WEBSITE middlechurch.org

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