

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

MARCH 27, 2022 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

GATHERING •

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

HYMN "I Lift My Voice"

(Andrea Ramsey; arr. John Del Cueto)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

When I lift my voice, let it be in song
A defiant note, in the face of wrong
I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side
'Cause we know that love is always justified.

CHORUS

When they try to divide us, It will only unite us. I lift my voice, I lift my voice

When I lift my voice, let it be for good Let me care as much as I know I should I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side 'Cause we know that love is always justified.

CHORUS

When I lift my voice, let it heal all wounds Let us lift each other to the sun and moon I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side 'Cause we know that love is always justified.

CHORUS

REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Monique Fortuné

"Siyahamba"

(Based on a South African Traditional Song)

Tereno Burroughs

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

MIDDLE RISING Jacqui Lewis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE "Count on Me"

(K. Edmonds, W. Houston, M. Houston)

Elizabeth Stanley and Natalie Renee Perkins, duet

LORD'S PRAYER Jacqui Lewis

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

John Del Cueto

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Middle Family

ANTHEM "Blackbird"

(Paul McCartney)

Nedra Neal, soloist • Tash Neal, guitarist

SCRIPTURE Luke 15. 11–32

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

SERMON "Do We Want to Be Found?"

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Dorie Hagler

OFFERTORY "Rise Up"

(Andra Day and Jennifer Decilveo)

Madge Dietrich, soloist • Dionne McClain-Freeney, pianist

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch



DEDICATION PRAYER

HYMN "Great Is the Lord"

(Jonathan McReynolds)

Gospel Ensemble • leads: Riqi Vélez, Kaede Helck, Ivan Anderson, Tina Owens, Momoyo Arai, Gina Simone Pemberton, Samantha Waite

Great is the Lord, my conqueror You have never failed me yet Through all my trials, tribulations, You will deliver You're the greatest One, You're God

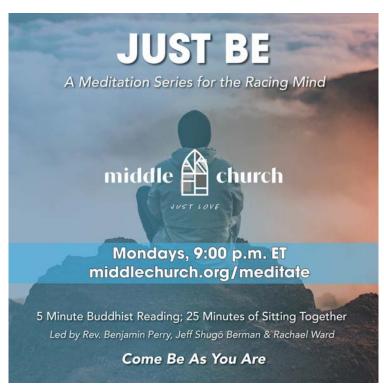
Great is the Lord, You're my comforter You has never left me yet In all my days I've never seen the righteous forsaken You're the greatest One, He's God

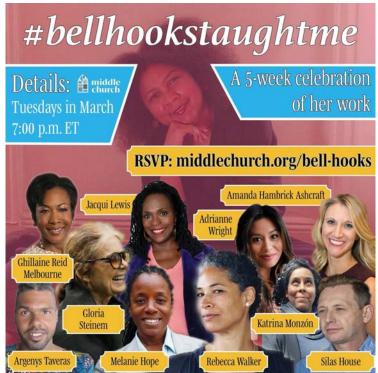
Great is the Lord, You're my warrior You has never lost one yet The enemy comes like a flood but You raise the standard You're the greatest One, He's God

Great is the Lord

BENEDICTION Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit YouTube.com/MiddleNYC.





Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: DO WE WANT TO BE FOUND?

- Why do we resist that which is good for us?
- How might our "coming home to God" heal us in this season of Lent?
- When have we been the caregiver welcoming, and when have we been the child leaving?

LAST WEEK: LISTEN UP!

- How will we be on this journey?
- What is this text asking us to hear?
- What is our individual calling and our corporate calling in this moment?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

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 Darron and Marian Cunningham 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/.

FIERCE LOVE IN A HYBRID WORLD

SAT. & SUN. APR. 23 + 24

A TWO-DAY CONVENING

Day 1: How to Create Multi-Ethnic Hybrid Worship: From Ethics to Execution Day 2: Building Beloved Community: Rescuing Democracy from the Brink

KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING: REV. DR. JACQUI LEWIS & BREE NEWSOME BASS

LEARN MORE: MIDDLECHURCH.ORG/HYBRID









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 \$704,391.87. 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 27

• 10:00 a.m.: Kids Sunday Enrichment

• 10:00 a.m.: Caregivers Roundtable

• 10:00 a.m.: Bible in the Middle

• 11:45 a.m.: <u>Digital Worship Celebration</u> — NO in-person worship celebration

• 12:45 p.m.: Virtual Chat & Chew

• 1:00 p.m.: Young Adults Small Group

• 1:00 p.m.: Village Chorus for Children

MONDAY, MARCH 28

• 6:30 p.m.: Acting Class

• 9:00 p.m.: <u>Just Be</u>

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

• 7:00 p.m.: <u>#bellhookstaughtme: a five-week</u> celebration of her work

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

• 8:00 a.m.: Pray to Rise

• 7:00 p.m.: Queer Roundtable Discussion:

Celebrating Womxn

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

• 1:00 p.m.: New Adventures

• 6:30 p.m.: Creative Writing Group

• 7:00 p.m.: Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

• 7:00 p.m.: Young Adults Pop-Up Poetry: The Future of Black

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

• 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.: Village Chorus for Children

• 1:00 p.m.: Middle Out Loud

• 1:00 p.m.: Middle Youth Walking Tour of the Lower East Side

• 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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