

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

APRIL 24, 2022 • 11:45 AM • FIERCE LOVE IN A HYBRID WORLD

• GATHERING •

ACOLYTES PROCESSIONAL

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Dominique Atchison

HYMN

“I Don’t Know What You Come to Do”

(Trad.)

I don’t know what you come to do,
I come to praise the Lord.

I don’t know what you come to do,
I come to praise the Lord.

I don’t know what you come to do,
I come to praise the Lord.

I don’t know what you come to do,
I come to praise the Lord.

I come to do my dance, my dance.
I come to do my dance, my dance.

I come to sing my song, my song.
I come to sing my song, my song.

I come to lift my hands, my hands.
I come to lift my hands, my hands.

I don’t know what you come to do,
I come to praise the Lord....

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

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Ben Perry & Zachary Stevens-Walter

“Siyahamba”

(South African Traditional Song)

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

MIDDLE RISING

Rachael Ward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD’S PRAYER

Darrell Hamilton

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Glory”

(L. Lynn, C. Smith, J. Stephens)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Alex Bertrand, soloist • Matthew Johnson Harris, rapper

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4.7–21

Dominique Atchison

SERMONIC SOLO “A Face in the Crowd”

(Elvis Costello)

Antwayn Hopper, soloist

SERMON

“Rescuing Jesus with Fierce Love”

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Lisa Heilig & Tammy Johnson

OFFERTORY “Brand New Day”

(Ruthie Foster)

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

“Total Praise”

(Richard Smallwood)

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

POSTLUDE

Chris Whittaker, pianist

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

Small Gospel Ensemble • John Del Cueto, Director of Music and Choirs • Sopranos: Deborah Berg McCarthy, Gina Simone Pemberton, Natalie Maust; Altos: Tina Owens, Sandra Santana; Tenors: Kaede Helck, Penny Lane, Matt Ackerman.

Middle Church Band • Jeremy Price, keyboards; Sam Weber, bass; Jonathon Peretz, drums

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: RESCUING JESUS WITH FIERCE LOVE

- If God is Love, who is Jesus?
 - How does this sermon help you liberate Jesus from the box he is in?
 - How can we rise as Easter people all year long?
-

LAST WEEK: THIS HERE FLESH

- This greatest story ever told features God coming all the way down into human history as Word made flesh. How does that word live in you?
 - How can you be the Rising?
 - How can we—this here flesh—be the resurrection?
-

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Nesta King; Gloria Cunningham Burgess Alicia Swain Janna Myers Sheila Robinson Renee Cunningham Marshall Drexel Cunningham Valencia Armijio Brittany Davis Reddick Cunningham Skip Reid Sheila Harding 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 Acquah Darrell Hamilton Ben Perry Cori Margolin Joy Rosenthal Dolly Catherine Vail Jessie Matei Darron and Marian Cunningham Ukraine Ellisi Tirali 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 votes have been cast and it has been decided that Middle WILL rebuild on our historic site! Glory be to God! You have been incredible stewards of your gifts with us to keep this movement of love and justice thriving during these last two years of pandemic and fire trauma. **To date, you have contributed \$787,635.92 toward our congregational goal of \$1,050,000 in contributions (that's 50% of our operating budget this year) to fund our ministry programming.** THANK YOU for your commitment to this movement! We do this together, to bring the KIN-dom of God to these streets and to cast our fierce love out into the world.

As we now move steadfastly into our season of resurrection, we will shift our resources into “One Fund” combined to achieve our operations and rebuilding needs for the years to come. In this moment, please continue to give in the generous way that you have been. **And plan to join us on May 15th for our Congregational Meeting where we'll discuss our One Fund in greater details and how to make your contributions most impactful.**

We're grateful for who you are as part of this community!

Love— *Jacqui, Darren Johnston—Consistory Chair, and the entire Middle Church Consistory*

To support our ongoing ministry, programs, operations, and rebuilding:

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch

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”)

Please reach out to our Stewardship Director, Devon Mosley (stewardship@middlechurch.org) to discuss any questions about your giving plan.

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, APRIL 24

- 10:00 a.m.: [FIERCE LOVE IN A HYBRID WORLD](#) — *ONLINE and IN-PERSON at Fort Washington Collegiate Church*
- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#) — *ONLINE and IN-PERSON at Fort Washington Collegiate Church*
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)

MONDAY, APRIL 25

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [How We Got Published](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

SUNDAY, MAY 1

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: 5K Against Hate
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#) — *ONLINE and IN-PERSON at East End Temple*
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Meal Outreach Ministry](#) — *Returns today!*

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. Darrell Hamilton – *Executive Minister of Care and Operations*

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Minister for Church Growth and Media Strategy*

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Consulting Community Minister*

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WEBSITE middlechurch.org

Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch

Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis

YouTube.com/MiddleNYC

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