

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JULY 3, 2022 • 11:45 AM • FREEDOM SUNDAY

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Hold On (Eyes on the Prize)” (African-American Spiritual, transc. Justice Choir)

Oh, the one thing we did right
Was the day we started to fight
Keep your eyes on the prize.
Hold on!

CHORUS

Hold on, hold on
Keep your eyes on the prize.
Hold on!

Got my hands on the freedom plow
Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

CHORUS

Only chains that we can stand
Are the chains of hand in hand.
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

CHORUS

When united it is clear,
We don't have to live in fear
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

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

CHORUS

Building walls and spreading hate
Will not make this country great.
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “The Mother” (Brandi Carlile, Phil Hanseroth, Tim Hanseroth)
Madge Dietrich, soloist

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 (Trad.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM “This Land Is Your Land” (Woodie Guthrie, arr. Binky Griptite)
Natalie Perkins, soloist

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2.1–5 Jacqui Lewis

SERMON “Forging Independence from Guns”
Jacqui Lewis & Mike Martin (@RAWtools)

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION Jacqui Lewis, Natalie Renee Perkins,
& Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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 John Janka & Ophelia Janka Deveaux

OFFERTORY "I Am America" (K. L. Bates, S. A. Ward, S. Diamond, S. Germanotta, J. Laursen;
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney)

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN "O Say, Can You See" (text: Jacqui Lewis, Francis Scott Key, arr. D. McClain-Freeney)

O say, can you see
What is plain to behold.
Though we shout liberty
There are too many in chains.

We are shackled to greed
And the fear we are small.
This truth must be told
There is one God who loves all.

Won't you give me your hand,
And together we'll stand?
With radical love
Heal our souls and our land.

O say can we end all this
Fighting and strife?
And walk towards the light
That we all might be free.

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; Hajime Yoshida, bass guitar.

Special Guest Mike Martin is the founder and Executive Director of RAWtools. A former youth and young adult pastor at Beth-El Mennonite Church, Mike is licensed for specialized ministry for the work of RAWtools by Mountain States Mennonite Conference of Mennonite Church USA. He has a BA in Biblical studies.

Mike learned to blacksmith in order to turn guns into garden tools and is passionate about connecting people to nonviolent skills like restorative justice and conflict mediation. He is trained for restorative justice facilitation, dialogue circles, and encourages everyone to explore how they can connect to similar efforts in their community. Mike believes turning swords into plowshares requires a comprehensive approach to gun violence, one that addresses the triggers in our streets, and the triggers in our hearts.

“Hold On” • This song is Public Domain. This edition © 2017 Justice Choir. Refrain credited to Alice Wines 1950. Licensed for free, non-commercial distribution. Free download: songs.Justicechoir.org/HoldOn.

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: FORGING INDEPENDENCE FROM GUNS

- Our intersectional justice work is imperative. As we imagine what it means to be free where will you put your time, talent and treasure?
- What support will you need from Middle Church to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God?
- How can our prophetic grief forge peace?

LAST WEEK: FOLLOWING THE ONE WHO CALLS US OUT BY NAME

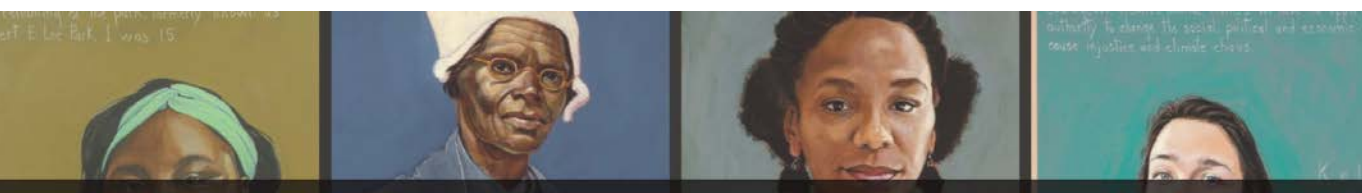
- Pain and trauma can keep us from recognizing each other fully, and even from knowing ourselves.
- Jesus is present in our midst when we offer radical welcome, anticipating other people’s needs before we are asked.
- When we live out that radical love, we become scaffolding for one another’s growth.

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Melissa Rodriguez; Gloria Cunningham Burgess Alicia Swain Janna Myers Sheila Robinson Sheila Harding Amanda Ashcraft Jacqui Lewis Valencia Armijio Vallory Leca Skip Reid Marc Aronson Michael Bos Pam Payne and family Devora Jones Connie Acquaah Darrell Hamilton Ben Perry Cori Margolin Catherine Vail Joe Tigner Jessi Matei Darron and Marian Cunningham Bridget Kelso Anthony Mia McClain Sandra Catena Ukraine Sandra Cunningham Drexel Cunningham Reddick Cunningham Brittany Davis Louise Tatum Victor Davis Hanson 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/.



Truth Tellers Film Screening & Panel

Sunday, July 3 | 1:30 PM ET on Zoom

a film about ethical spectacles and courageous activists who have tipped the moral scales toward justice



REV. DR. JACQUI LEWIS



REV. AMANDA ASHCRAFT



REGGIE HARRIS



ROBERT SHETTERLY



middlechurch.org/truth



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 —

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. As of June 30, 2022, as we end our fiscal year at Middle, **we are thrilled to say that your contributions have totaled \$1,050,078** toward our operations, programming, and Middle Rising funds which meets our congregational goal of \$1,050,000 (50% of our operating budget this year) to fund our ministry programming! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, 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 move steadfastly into our season of resurrection and start a new programming and fiscal year in July, we will shift all contributions into a combined “One Fund” 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 if you missed the May 15th Congregational Meeting where we discussed our One Fund in greater detail and how to make your contributions most impactful, [you can watch it here](#).**

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](https://venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 1400, New York, NY 10276

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, JULY 3

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [Truth Tellers Film Screening & Panel](#)

MONDAY, JULY 4

STAFF HOLIDAY—INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

TUESDAY, JULY 5

- 1:00 p.m.: [Queer Lunch Break](#)
- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Middle Member Mingle with Jacqui Lewis](#)

THURSDAY, JULY 7

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

SUNDAY, JULY 10

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Middle Mixer: Picnic in Stuyvesant Park](#)

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. Natalie Renee Perkins – *Minister for Worship and Online Community*

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

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Consulting Community Minister*

- MAILING PO Box 1400
New York, NY 10276
- TELEPHONE 212-477-0666
- CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318
- E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org
- WEBSITE middlechurch.org

- Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
- Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis
- YouTube.com/MiddleNYC
- Instagram.com/middlechurch
- Instagram.com/revjacquilewis
- Twitter.com/middlechurch
- Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

