

middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

OCTOBER 23, 2022 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

BAPTISM

Ben Perry, Natalie Perkins, & Mira Sawlani-Joyner

Teya Calliope Blackburn-Baker

Parents: Teagan Heather Blackburn and Arrow Brent Baker

Godparent: Richard Blackburn

HYMN

"I Don't Know What You Came to Do"

(Trad.)

Lead: I don't know what you come to do

All: I came to praise the Lord

Lead: I don't know what you come to do

All: I came to praise the Lord

Lead: I don't know what you come to do

All: I came to praise the Lord

Lead: I come to do my dance

All: My dance

Lead: I come to do my dance

All: My dance

Lead: I come to sing my song

All: My song

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

Lead: I come to sing my song

All: My song

Lead: I come to lift my hands

All: My hands

Lead: I come to lift my hands

All: My hands

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

“Siyahamba”

(Based on a South African Traditional Song)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD’S PRAYER

Natalie Perkins

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

“What Shall I Render?”

(Margaret Douroux)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18.9-14

Ben Perry

SERMON

“‘Perfection’ Poisons Progress”

Ben Perry

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Tom Smucker and Laura Kogel

OFFERTORY

“I’m Available”

(Carlis Moody)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch



DOXOLOGY From all that dwell below the skies (Trad.)
Let faith and hope with love arise.
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

DEDICATION PRAYER Mira Sawlani-Joyner

HYMN "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round" (Trad.)

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round,
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round,
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round,
I'm gonna keep on walkin',
Keep on talkin',
Marchin' up to freedom land.

Ain't gonna let racism turn me 'round ...

Ain't gonna let injustice turn me 'round ...

Ain't gonna let division turn me 'round ...

BENEDICTION Ben Perry

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

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • John Del Cueto, Director of Music and Choirs

Middle Church Band • Jeremy Price, piano; Booker King, guitar; Jonathon Peretz, drums.

We need ushers every Sunday!

IN-PERSON USHERS

DIGITAL/ONLINE USHERS

Learn more at middlechurch.org/usher

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: "PERFECTION" POISONS PROGRESS

If faith becomes preoccupied with reassuring ourselves about our own righteousness, we miss God's call to justice — Humility isn't about negating our own worth, it's about seeing how our flourishing is interwoven with our neighbors' — Love is a process, not a destination. It's a story of continuous becoming we're invited to enter.

LAST WEEK: SO COME

We are called to welcome the children, but to what? What is the world we want to give them? What is the context we need to create so children and their families flourish? What does it mean for us to live so we leave no child behind?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Jason, Diane, family, friends, and neighbors; Gloria Cunningham Burgess Alicia Swain Janna Myers Amanda Ashcraft Jacqui Lewis Ben Perry Elsie Taralli Natalie Perkins Marc Aronson Cori Margolin Catherine Vail Devora Jones Pam Payne and family Connie Acquah Louise Tatum Brittany Davis Drexel Cunningham Robert Cunningham Reddick Cunningham Darron and Marian Cunningham Valencia Armijio Vallory Leca Renee Cunningham Marshall Michael Bos Sandra Catena Sandra Cunningham Joy Rosenthal Dolly Linda Doria Laura Donovan Bridget Kelso Anthony Mia McClain Joe Tigner Jessi Matei Ukraine Puerto Rico The New York Yankees Aaron Judge 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/.



The campaign to Rebuild, Reclaim, and Repair with Just Love

Middle Rising

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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 are called to the Rising—Middle Rising! As we kicked-off our new fiscal year on July 1st, we have launched our rebuilding campaign and shifted our giving goals with you, the congregation, to embrace our exciting future. Your donations to Middle now go to our “ONE FUND” to support Middle’s operations, staff, programming, and fundraising for our new building. This streamlined giving process helps Middle plan, grow, and rise from the ashes stronger to achieve our budget needs and help endow the future of this movement. In this moment, please continue to give in the generous way that you have been. The fire that destroyed Middle’s historic East Village site has not stopped us from putting our Fierce Love out in the world. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for and together, with you onboard, we will have enough!

We’re grateful for who you are as part of this community! **Please visit middlechurch.org/middle-rising to hear more about your important role in the next phase of the Middle Rising campaign!**

Love—*Jacqui, Vickie Burns—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.
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, OCTOBER 23

- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 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.: [Usher Training](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Children's Halloween Party](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)

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. Mira Sawlani-Joyner – *Minister for Spiritual Development and Care*

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Consulting Community Minister*

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- WEBSITE middlechurch.org

- [Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)
- [Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://www.facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)
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