

middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 11, 2022 • 11:45 AM • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Joy Bells”

(Trad.)

Joy bells keep ringin’ in my soul
Joy bells keep ringin’ in my soul
Joy bells, Joy bells
Joy bells keep ringin’ in my soul

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Frog and Toad

“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

Delaney Piper

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

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

ANTHEM	“Joy” Gospel Ensemble	(Kirk Franklin)
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1.46b–55	Ben Perry
SERMON	“Joy to the World. Really.”	Ben Perry

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Alvin Crawford

OFFERTORY “Joyful, Joyful” from *Sister Act 2* (Christina Harmon; arr. Mervyn Warren)
 Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Madge Dietrich, Maurice Murphy, soloists
 Matthew Johnson Harris, rapper

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

DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Trad.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise God all creatures here below
 Praise God above ye heavenly host.
 Praise parent, child and Holy Ghost.
 Amen.

DEDICATION PRAYER Gloria Moy

HYMN “Joy to the World” (Isaac Watts)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
 Let earth receive God’s love.
 Let every heart prepare God room
 And Heaven and nature sing
 And Heaven and nature sing.
 And Heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
 Let all their songs employ
 While fields and floods
 Rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Love rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of their righteousness
And wonders of God's love
And wonders of God's love
And wonders, wonders of God's love.

BENEDICTION

Ben Perry

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Frog and Toad • Frog—Elisabeth Rodgers; Toad—Dean Hubbard

Gospel Ensemble • John Del Cueto, Director of Music and Choirs • Madge Dietrich, Tina Owens, Shari Gill, Layke Jones

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; Bernice Brooks, drums.

Sermon in Action

THIS WEEK: JOY TO THE WORLD. REALLY.

- Joy is what sustains our hope.
 - Joy comes from relationship, when we root deeply together with those we love, it gives us the power to be the change we yearn for.
 - Even in our most dire moments, Middle has been filled with such unmistakable joy. It's what will fuel our resurrection and rebirth.
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LAST WEEK: GOD IS CHANGE

What God intends for the world is utter transformation. No more enmity, even in the animal kingdom. God's Spirit (Breath of Heaven) wants to use us, like she did Mary, in that transformation.

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Brittany and Dustin C.; 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 Acquaah 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 Gwen Kingsberry 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.

By entering the Sanctuary, you grant Middle Collegiate Church unrestricted right to use and publish, transmit, or telecast photographs or likenesses that might be taken of you this day for use in communications related to the church. You agree that all such material will be the sole property of Middle Collegiate Church. If you are uncomfortable, you are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary balcony.

GIVING AT MIDDLE—

Dear Middle Family —

We are called to the Rising—Middle Rising! We are in our rebuilding campaign and have 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. The fire that destroyed Middle’s historic East Village site has not stopped us from putting our Fierce Love out in the world.

Please visit www.middlechurch.org/rising to make your **Pledge** to our **Middle Rising** campaign (**which can be given over three years**) so that we can count on your support toward our ongoing operations, programming, and fundraising for our new building. 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.

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, DECEMBER 11

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [New Member Gathering](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Middle Players Present "The Power of Gifts and the Nativity"](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Advent Bible Study](#)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Family Ornament Making](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:30 p.m.: [Queer Holiday 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. 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*

MAILING PO Box 1400, New York, NY 10276

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM online and in-person at:
245 East 17th Street, New York, NY 10003

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