

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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DECEMBER 18, 2022 • 11:45 AM • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Hambrick-Ashcraft Family

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Trad.)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
O come and behold Christ, born the King of Angels

REFRAIN

O come, let us adore You  
O come, let us adore You  
O come, let us adore You  
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God All glory in the highest

REFRAIN

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.  
Child of God Now in flesh appearing

REFRAIN

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

• REFLECTING •

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Alesha Borbo Kilayko

“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** “Lullaby to an Anxious Child”

(Sting and Dominic Miller)

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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**

“Hallelujah”

(Leonard Cohen/Cloverton Lyrics)

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 1.18–25

Jacqui Lewis

**SERMONIC HYMN** “Olam Chesed Yibbaneh”

(Rabbi Menachem Creditor)

Olam chesed yibbaneh

Lai-lai-lai

Olam chesed yibbaneh

Lai-lai-lai

Olam chesed yibbaneh

Lai-lai-lai

Olam chesed yibbaneh

Lai-lai-lai

I will build this world from love

Lai-lai-lai

You must build this world from love

Lai-lai-lai

If we will build this world from love

Lai-lai-lai

Then God will build this world from love  
Lai-lai-lai

**SERMON** "Midwifing Love"

Jacqui Lewis

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Graham Ashcraft &  
Zane Hambrick-Ashcraft

**OFFERTORY** "A Soalin'"

(Noel Paul Stookey, Elena Mezzetti, Tracy Batteast)

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://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**

Ben Perry

**HYMN** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

(Felix Mendelssohn)

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise.  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,

Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king!"

## BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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### PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

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**Village Chorus for Children and Youth** • John Del Cueto, Director of Music and Choirs • Ellington Tanner, Caelyn Osbern, Dominick Vizioli, Carlo Vizioli, Cerentha Cook, Miranda Oden Cook, Sabrina Cote, Imani Passley

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

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## Sermon in Action

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### THIS WEEK: MIDWIFING LOVE

- We are all called, Midwife love into the world.  
It takes all of us, the whole of creation.
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### LAST 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.

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

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.**

Jade H.; 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 FWCC 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/](http://middlechurch.org/prayer/).

## Celebrate the Holidays with Middle Church

Advent Sunday Worship Celebrations • Family Ornament Making •  
Advent Bible Studies • Christmas Eve Worship Celebration • And more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit [middlechurch.org/holidays](http://middlechurch.org/holidays)

# Welcome to Middle Church

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**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](http://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.

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## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

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All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org) for details and the latest updates.

**Registration for all programming ends 1 hour before the event begins, so be sure to RSVP!**

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**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.

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## 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](#)

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Advent Bible Study](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Deconstructing Masculinity/Dismantling Patriarchy](#)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

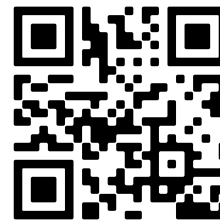
## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 9:00 p.m.: [Middle Church Christmas Eve Worship Celebration at Marble Church](#)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [A Very Special Online Christmas](#)
- 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.



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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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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  
TELEPHONE 212-477-0666  
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