



JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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JANUARY 8, 2023 • 11:45 AM • THREE KINGS SUNDAY

• GATHERING •

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

**HYMN** "We Three Kings"

(John Henry Hopkins Jr.)

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

REFRAIN:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

REFRAIN

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshiping God on high.

REFRAIN

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

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

### REFRAIN

### • REFLECTING •

### MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Delaney Piper

“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

Jacqui Lewis

### LORD'S PRAYER

Nick Laparra

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

Nick Laparra

**ANTHEM**      “Louder Than Words”  
                    Smith Daniels, soloist

(Jonathan Larson)

**SCRIPTURE**    Matthew 3:13-17

Natalie Perkins

**SERMON**        “Making It Right”

Natalie Perkins

### • RESPONDING •

### INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Nick Laparra

**OFFERTORY**     “My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord”  
                    Robert Hughes, soloist

(arr. Moses Hogan)

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch

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

(Trad.)

## DEDICATION PRAYER

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

**HYMN** "My Hope is Built"

(Edward Mote)

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' love and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

### REFRAIN

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.

### REFRAIN

God's oath, and covenant and love,  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
God then is all my hope and stay.

### REFRAIN

## BENEDICTION

Natalie Perkins

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## PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

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**Worship Leader** • John Del Cueto, Director of Music and Choirs

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

# Sermon in Action

## THIS WEEK: MAKING IT RIGHT

- What can you put in place to remind yourself daily of your recommitment?

## LAST WEEK: TIME IS ON MY SIDE

- The extreme highs and lows of the seasons of life are part of every human experience. We cannot control the outcome of each season, but we can decide how we are going to respond.

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

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

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 Darren 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; Ruth Guerrero

**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/).



# 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](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.

## 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:**

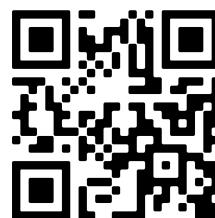
- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.  
PO Box 1400, New York, NY 10276

**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

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!

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, JANUARY 8

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

## MONDAY, JANUARY 9

- 7:00 p.m.: [Self-Care is Communal](#)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

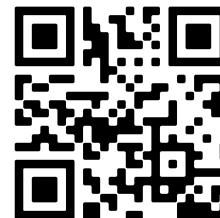
## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Central Region MiCC Gathering](#)

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- 9:30 a.m.: [Morning Worship Celebration](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [King Day Morning Teach-In](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Morning Meal](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Afternoon Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Afternoon Meal](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 1:30 p.m.: [King Day Afternoon Teach-In](#)

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

TELEPHONE 212-477-0666

CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318

E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org

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