

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

APRIL 2, 2023 • 11:45 AM • PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Our God is an Awesome God”

(Rich Mullins)

Gospel Ensemble

Our God is an awesome God
Who reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God.

• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Prayer Tree”

LORD'S PRAYER

Pam & Natalie

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	"Hosanna" Gospel Ensemble	(Kirk Franklin)
SCRIPTURE	Matt 21.1-11	Jacqui Lewis
SERMON	"Palms and Circumstance"	Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

Jacqui Lewis, Natalie Perkins
and Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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

Patrick Mulcahy

OFFERTORY	"Holy, Holy" Gospel Ensemble	(Richard Smallwood)
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Donate at 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.)
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DEDICATION PRAYER

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

HYMN

“Gethsemene (from Jesus Christ Superstar)”

Ivan Anderson, Soloist

(Andrew Llyod Weber, Tim Rice)

BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Gospel Ensemble • Deborah BergMcCarthy; Gabbie Beauvais; Ivan Anderson; Jennifer Cook; Jessica Baen; Johnny Shea; Kaede Helck; Matt Ackerman; Penny Lane; Sandra Anderson; Sandra Santana; Tina Cernero; Tina Owens

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Booker King, bass; Jonathon Peretz, drums; Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: PALMS AND CIRCUMSTANCE

- Love and justice clash with hatred and oppression. Every time. All the time. Palm Sunday is about those circumstances.

LAST WEEK: EVERYDAY PROPHETS

- What keeps you from believing that you're called to proclaim the impossible?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Michael Weydert; Pray for 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/.

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](https://www.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.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

- 9:30 a.m.: [Palm Sunday: A People's Procession for Justice](#)
- 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: Palm Sunday](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Creative Writing Workshop for Kids](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Queer Connections](#)

MONDAY, APRIL 3

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise East](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise West](#)
- 5:30 p.m.: [Freedom Feast: A Multifaith Liberation Seder](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Walking the Way of Harriet Tubman](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

- 12:00 p.m.: [Worship Celebration: Good Friday](#)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- 7:00 p.m.: [Worship Celebration: Holy Saturday](#)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

- 7:00 a.m.: [Worship Celebration: Easter Sunrise](#)
- 9:30 a.m.: [Worship Celebration: Easter Sunday](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:45 a.m.: [Children's Easter Egg Hunt](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration: Easter Sunday](#)
- 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 and Public Theologian*
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:
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CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318

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