



Fierce Love Worship Celebration

APRIL 30, 2023 • 11:45 AM • FREEDOM RISING WORSHIP

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Will Critzman and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

(Elisha Hoffman, Anthony Showalter)

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Refrain

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! (refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
I have peace complete with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! (refrain)

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

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Genesis Be

“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 “Nina Cried Power”

(Andrew Hozier-Byrne)

Madge Dietrich, Soloist

LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Will Critzman

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

Rev. Ben Perry

ANTHEM

“Love is An Action”

(Tituss Burgess)

Gabbi Beauvais, Soloist

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The Message version)

Rabbi Joshua Stanton

SERMON

“Grabbed by God”

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

RESPONSE TO SERMON

Rabbi Joshua Stanton and Linda Sarsour

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews

OFFERTORY

“Love Revolution”

(Dionne McClain-Freeney)

Shari Gill, Soloist

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 Rev. Natalie R. Perkins

HYMN "Total Praise" (Richard Smallwood)

Lord I will lift mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from
Your peace, You give me
In time of the storm

You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to you

Amen

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

The Freedom Rising Conference is incredibly grateful to West End Church for hosting this remarkable gathering. We also thank Focus for Health, Drew Theological School, Union Theological Seminary and Auburn Seminary for their sponsorship.

We're also excited to announce a new chapter in the life of the Middle Project! After sponsoring this conference for eighteen years, and training hundreds of leaders to serve their communities, the organization will enter a new and exciting chapter! Starting soon, it will be known as Freedom Rising: a non-profit organization to offer liberatory education and foster social change.

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

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: GRABBED BY GOD

- When we've been grabbed by God, when God puts their hand on us, we MUST prophesy to the deadness, to the dry bones, to snap them back to life. God commands us to prophesy to the Spirit that inspires resurrection life.

LAST WEEK: MAKING IT KNOWN: A REPARATIONS STORY

- What are the blinders that keep you from seeing the whole truth?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Peace and blessings! Please pray to cancel the assignment of the enemy over the lives and destinies of myself and my 3 children and let's God's will for our lives prevail easily and effortlessly. A return to sender 100 fold of all witchcraft, voodoo, hoodoo, spell work, incantations, negative intentions, and negative thoughts being sent and projected at my 3 children and myself. Protection by means of a hedge of fire to encircle and encamp my children and I wherever we may go. Legions of angels to guard our lives and our destinies and the will of God over our lives. Employment gained at \$28hr..The NY lotto winning numbers please and Thank you so very much!. GOD BLESS ALL OF HIS KINGDOM BUILDERS AND SERVANTS! AMEN.;Please pray for Alexei Navalny in prison in Russia. He means love to the Russian people.;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 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 Sheila Robinson Sheila Harding Jessi Matei Joe Tigner NATO Ukraine Puerto Rico FWCC Victoria Dillard 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.
50 East 7th Street, New York, NY 10003

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

to hear a weekly prayer, scripture, and reflection from a Middle pastor. Updated Mondays, 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

- 10:00 a.m.: [Freedom Rising: Dismantling Fascism with Fierce Love](#)
- 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.: [Freedom Rising Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)

MONDAY, MAY 1

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

TUESDAY, MAY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise East](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise West](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

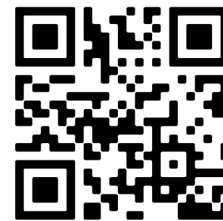
THURSDAY, MAY 4

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

SUNDAY, MAY 7

- 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.: [Queer Connections](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Middle Church events, activities, and the latest updates, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.



THE COLLEGIATE CHURCHES OF NEW YORK

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister at Middle Church*

Rev. Will Critzman – *Senior Minister at West End Church*

Rev. Michael Bos – *Senior Minister at Marble Collegiate Church*

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
WEBSITE middlechurch.org

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

