

middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JULY 2, 2023 • 11:45 AM • FREEDOM SUNDAY

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Hold Everybody Up”

(Melanie DeMore)

Chorus:

We gotta hold everybody
We gotta hold everybody up
We gotta hold everybody
We gotta hold everybody up
Hold everybody up, up, up
Hold everybody up, up, up
Hold everybody up, up, up
Hold everybody up

Just because you look like you
And I look like me
It doesn't mean we can't be friends
You're not my enemy

Chorus

People all around the world
sometimes feel so sad



middle
church

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

But when others show they care
Well things don't seem so bad

Chorus

• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Natalie Perkins

LORD'S PRAY

Rev. Natalie Perkins

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. Natalie Perkins

ANTHEM

"I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free"

(Billy Taylor/Dick Dallas)

Tap Dancers, Megan Huangs and Toes Tiranoff; Alfredo Colom, saxophone;
Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano

SCRIPTURE

Gen 22:1-14

Rev. Jacqui Lewis

SERMON

"We Hold these Truths to be Self Evident..."

Rev. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

Rev. Jacqui Lewis & Rev. Natalie Perkins

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

Devon Mosley

OFFERTORY "I Am America" (K. L. Bates, S. A. Ward, S. Diamond, S. Germanotta, J. Laursen;
arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney)

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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 Perkins

HYMN Oh Say Can't You See (Lyrics: Jacqui Lewis)

Oh say can't you see
What is plain to behold
'Though we shout "Liberty!"
There are too many in chains?
We are shackled by grief
And the fear we are small
But this truth must be told
There is one God who loves all
Won't you give me your hand
And together we'll stand
With radical love
Heal our souls and our land?
Oh, say can't we end all this fighting and strife
And walk toward the light
That we all might be free?

BENEDICTION Rev. Jacqui Lewis



PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT...

- Our theologies lead us.... The "god" we believe in can cause life or death. Choose one.
-

LAST WEEK: WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY, "GOD IS QUEER?"

- Our theology builds a world; what world do we want?

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Please pray for me as I begin the journey of breast cancer treatment and healing. Thank you, Middle family, I love you!; For Malcom Livesley's family: Katey, Gigi and Jack.; 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 Sheila Robinson Sheila Harding Jessi Matei Joe Tigner NATO Ukraine Puerto Rico FWCC Victoria Dillard James Cunningham Gwen Kingsberry Dominique Atchison 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/.

Butterfly Outreach Mission invites YOU to volunteer on Sundays at 2:00pm!

We welcome you to join us at 2:00pm at Tompkins Square Park Corner at 9th Street and Ave B as we deliver homemade sandwiches and love letters to our neighbors who might appreciate a meal and friendly face. Please email Patrick at Ptmulcahy21@gmail.com or Deborah at Bergamotmusic@gmail.com for more info on what to bring and expect.

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, JUL 2

- 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](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)

MONDAY, JUL 3

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

TUESDAY, JUL 4

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

WEDNESDAY, JUL 5

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

THURSDAY, JUL 6

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

SUNDAY, JUL 9

- 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.: [Immigration Lunch & Learn](#)
- 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. 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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