

# middle church



JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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JULY 9, 2023 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Elise Tiralli

**HYMN**

“Awesome God”

(Rich Mullins)

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

Mi Dios, poderosos es,  
El reina en majestad  
Con amor y con verdad,  
Mi Dios poderoso es.

• REFLECTING •

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Elise Tiralli

“Siyahamba”

(Based on a South African Traditional Song)

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.



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**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** “God is In Control”

(James Hall)

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 145:8-14

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**SERMON** “The Long Game”

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Rev. Jacqui Lewis

**OFFERTORY** “God Is”  
Shari Gill, soloist

(Randy Fryson)

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**

Anthony Ellis

**HYMN** “Over My Head”

(trad)

Over my head, I hear music in the air  
Over my head, I hear music in the air



Over my head, I hear music in the air  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I see trouble in the air  
Over my head, I see trouble in the air  
Over my head, I see trouble in the air  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear singing in the air  
Over my head, I hear singing in the air  
Over my head, I hear singing in the air  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I see glory in the air  
Over my head, I see glory in the air  
Over my head, I see glory in the air  
There must be a God somewhere.

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION**

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**Director of Music and Choirs** • John Del Cueto

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

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## Sermon Focus: What's Next?

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### THIS WEEK: THE LONG GAME

- God calls us to Freedom. What sustains you in the long work of freedom?
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### LAST 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.

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

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

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 Ukraine Puerto Rico FWCC Victoria Dillard James Cunningham Gwen Kingsberry Dominique Atchison Sheila Robinson Sheila Harding Jessi Matei Joe Tigner NATO 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/).

### **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](mailto:Ptmulcahy21@gmail.com) or Deborah at [Bergamotmusic@gmail.com](mailto:Bergamotmusic@gmail.com) for more info on what to bring and expect.

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# 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](https://www.venmo.com/@MiddleCollegiateChurch)

**To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:**

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.  
50 East 7<sup>th</sup> 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](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.



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# 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!**

**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.

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## 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](#)

## MONDAY, JUL 10

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Connections](#)

## WEDNESDAY, JUL 12

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise East](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise West](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

## THURSDAY, JUL 13

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

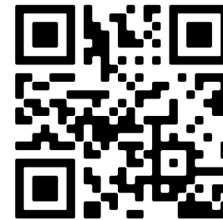
## SATURDAY, JUL 15

- 10:00 a.m.: [Pandemic Babies: Come Play with your Middle Family!](#)

## SUNDAY, JUL 16

- 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](#)

**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 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  
TELEPHONE 212-477-0666  
CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318  
E-MAIL [middleinfo@middlechurch.org](mailto:middleinfo@middlechurch.org)  
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