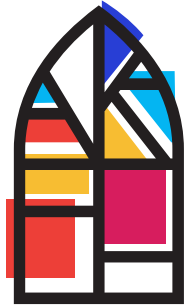


middle church



JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JULY 16, 2023 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Cantemos al Señor (Let’s Sing Unto the Lord)”

(Carlos Rosas)

Cantemos al Señor, a hymn of glad rejoicing.
Let’s sing a hymn of love,
At the new day’s fresh beginning.
God made the sky above,
The stars, the sun, the oceans;
And God saw it was good,
For those works were filled with beauty.

refrain:

Aleluya! Aleluya!
Cantemos al Señor, Aleluya!
Aleluya! Aleluya!
Cantemos al Señor, Aleluya!

Cantemos al Señor, a hymn of adoration,
Which shows our love and faith
And the hope of all creation.
Through all that has been made,
The Lord is praised for greatness,



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And so we sing to God,
Who bestows such lovely blessings. (refrain)

• REFLECTING •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Natalie Perkins

“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

“I Choose Love”

(Mark Miller)

JJGC

LORD’S PRAYER

George Edwards-Stimola

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

George Edwards-Stimola

ANTHEM

“Lovely Day”

(Kirk Franklin)

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:10-13

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

SERMON

“Go in Joy!”

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Alijah Kirksey

OFFERTORY "Better than a Hallelujah"

(Chapin Hartford, Sarah Hart)

Deborah BergMcCarthy, 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

Parron Allen Edwards-Stimola

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. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft



PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

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

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: GO IN JOY!

- We are called to Joy. How can you claim that for yourself this week?
-

LAST WEEK: THE LONG GAME

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

PRAYER CORNER *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*
We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

I am from Nepal. But to support my parents I am here in United Arab Emirates, working for the past seven years. But things are not going well for the past few years. Financially weak, our Salaries were delayed, not getting on time. I request everyone, the entire Family Members of MIDDLE CHURCH to please pray for me, to find a new job on the right time, to overcome the financial difficulties and also I am requesting to please pray for my family members, friends and relatives and more importantly please pray for my marriage which will be fix very soon. The name is Mary Gurung God fearing and God's choice Daughter to whom I am planning to get married. Thank you!; 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 Acquaaah 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/.

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.



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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 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](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)

MONDAY, JUL 17

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

TUESDAY, JUL 18

- 7:00 p.m.: [Middle Mixer: Virtual Pub Trivia](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUL 19

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

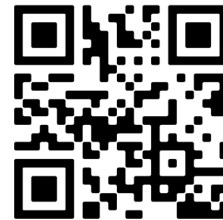
THURSDAY, JUL 20

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

SUNDAY, JUL 23

- 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.: [Middle Mixer: Potluck in the Park](#)
- 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.



Please reach out to our Director of Congregational Life, Elise Tiralli, with any questions regarding programming— etiralli@middlechurch.org.

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*

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WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM online and in-person at:
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WEBSITE middlechurch.org

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