

# middle church

*JUST LOVE*

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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AUGUST 20, 2023 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

(John Newton)

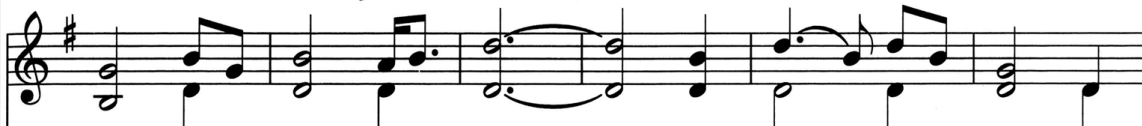
# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

St. 1-4, John Newton,  
1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a soul like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was bound but now I'm free  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.



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Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M. (NEW BRITAIN)  
Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

• REFLECTING •

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Lauren MacDonald

“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**

Sophia Diehl

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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**

“Infinite Joy”

(William Finn)

Kathleen Butler-Duplessis, soloist

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 15: 21-28

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**SERMON**

“Power, Location and Transformation”

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• RESPONDING •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Tom Smucker

**OFFERTORY**

“Change”

(Tracy Chapman)

Kathleen Butler-Duplessis, soloist

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**

Tom Smucker

**HYMN** "This Little Light Of Mine"

(trad spiritual)

# THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 3. Shine all over the world, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 4. Shine, shine, shine, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 Shine all over the world, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 Shine, shine, shine,

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 Shine all over the world, I'm gon-na let it shine.  
 Shine, shine, shine,

oh oh

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Words and Music: Negro spiritual; arr. by Nolan Williams, J., © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725559.

**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

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**Sermon Focus: What's Next?**

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**THIS WEEK: POWER, LOCATION AND TRANSFORMATION**

- In our quick-to-cancel and call-out culture, how can we create space for teachable and transformable dialogue?
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**LAST WEEK: EVERY LITTLE THING GONNA BE ALRIGHT**

- God has what C.S. Lewis called "an unbounded now" to heal our souls and the world. What is our work in the meantime?

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

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

A prayer for all those who Melvin holds in his heart and mind.; Prayers of well being for myself and my family

**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://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.



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

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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, AUG 20

- 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Sermon Talk Back—Let's Give A Damn: What Ubuntu Demands](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Mixer: Spicy Moon!](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)

## MONDAY, AUG 21

- 9:00 a.m.: [Freedom Summer](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Middle Mixer: Virtual Pub Trivia](#)

## TUESDAY, AUG 22

- 9:00 a.m.: [Freedom Summer](#)

## WEDNESDAY, AUG 23

- 9:00 a.m.: [Freedom Summer](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

## THURSDAY, AUG 24

- 9:00 a.m.: [Freedom Summer](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing](#)

## FRIDAY, AUG 25

- 9:00 a.m.: [Freedom Summer](#)

## SUNDAY, AUG 27

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:45 a.m.: [Young Adults Mixer: Coffee at the Bean](#)
- 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.



Please reach out to our Director of Congregational Life, Elise Tiralli, with any questions regarding programming— [etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org).

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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:  
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TELEPHONE 212-477-0666  
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