



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 • 11:45 AM

PRELUDE *We invite you to use this time for prayer or silent meditation to center yourself and prepare for worship.*

• **GATHERING** •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN ["What A Fellowship"](#)

(Elisah A. Hoffman)

• **REFLECTING** •

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

"Siyahamba"

(Based on a South African Traditional Song)

We are marching in the Light of God
We are marching in the Light of God

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

As you are able, please make your way to the microphone to also greet those worshipping with us online.

ANTHEM

"My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord"
Soloist Tanisha Anderson

(Price)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25: 1-13

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

SERMON

"It's Uncomfortable. And?"

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• RESPONDING •**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Rev. Nick Laparra

OFFERTORY

"Come Sunday"
Soloist Noël Wippler

(Duke Ellington)

Donate at 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.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Rev. Nick Laparra

HYMN

"The Blessing"

(Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe Carnes, Steven Furlick)

The Lord bless you and keep you



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Make their face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn their face towards you
And give you peace
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Kobi Abcede (Drums), Jared Beckstead-Craan (Double Bass)

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE. AND?

- How is a life of faith enriched by nuance and ambiguity? What do you need to cultivate those characteristics, especially in times of division and hate?

LAST WEEK: LIP SERVICE

- Do your words and actions match?

October Playlist: Did you miss anything at Middle last month? Check out our monthly recap for a selection of moving musical performances and a touching sermon. Watch it back again or share the playlist with a friend to let them see what October was like at Middle Church.



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

Praying for personal connections and fulfilling employment that brings joy for Fredrik.; A prayer for all those who Melvin holds in his heart and mind.

To make a prayer request, request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit middlechurch.org/prayer/.

Butterfly Outreach Ministry, our food justice ministry, invites you to volunteer on Sundays at 2:00pm! Please email Patrick at Ptmulcahy21@gmail.com or Deborah at Bergamotmusic@gmail.com for more info on what to bring and expect.



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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 the 2nd year of our rebuilding campaign that takes us through 2025. Your donations to Middle 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.

In Year One of our campaign, we saw incredible commitment to this project, and we need everyone who calls this their movement to help invest so that we can build it back to its glory for our future. **Please visit www.middlechurch.org/rising** to make your Pledge to our Middle Rising campaign (which can be paid through 2025) so that we can plan around 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://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.

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, NOV 12

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00a.m.: [Voter Reform](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)

MONDAY, NOV 13

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV 15

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [November New Members Gathering](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Listen. Learn. Lean into Peace.](#)

THURSDAY, NOV 16

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

SUNDAY, NOV 19

- 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 & Youth](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Children's Multicultural Book Fair](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)

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 Programs and Congregational Life,

Elise Tiralli, with any questions regarding programming—

etiralli@middlechurch.org.



Our ushers ministry isn't complete without you! We need in-person and digital ushers to help usher in Middle's radical welcome. Learning is easy for this mission-critical volunteer opportunity. For in-person ushering please email Elise at etiralli@middlechurch.org to get plugged in; for digital ushering, please email Rev. Natalie at nperkins@middlechurch.org.



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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
TELEPHONE 212-477-0666
CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318
E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org
WEBSITE middlechurch.org

Share our message on social media and invite others to like, follow, and connect with us.

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

What a Fellowship

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er -

last-ing arms. What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing
last-ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing
last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Sav-ior near, lean-ing

Refrain

on the ev-er - last-ing arms.
on the ev-er - last-ing arms. Lean-ing, lean-ing, safe and se-cure from
on the ev-er - last-ing arms.

all a-larms; lean-ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er - last-ing arms.

From *The New Century Hymnal*. Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. NCH471

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

BACK



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