

RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD  
**ADVENT:**  
**REVITALIZE US!**  
REFRAME

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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DECEMBER 3, 2023 • 11:45 AM • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**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

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

Lutin Tanner and Adrienne Hurd

**HYMN**

[“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”](#)

(John Mason Neale, Henry Sloane  
Coffin, Maren Tirabassi)

• REFLECTING •

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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.

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**CONGREGATIONAL AMEN**

(Trad.)

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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

**ANTHEM** "My Lord What A Morning"

(trad Spiritual - arr. J. Del Cueto)

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

**SERMON** "Reclaim Hope"

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

**COMMUNION**

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis  
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Lutin Tanner and Adrienne Hurd

**OFFERTORY** "Awesome God"

(Shawn Brown)

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.

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

Lutin Tanner and Adrienne Hurd

**HYMN** "[God Of Justice, God of Mercy](#)"

(Jane Parker Huber, Rowland Hugh Prichard)

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis



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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-Freeneay (Piano), Booker King (Bass), Jon Peretz (Drummer)

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## Sermon Focus: What's Next?

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### THIS WEEK: RECLAIM HOPE

- Hope can feel elusive in times like these. How can we lean into the kind of hope that offers comfort in this text?
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### LAST WEEK: WHEN THE FAÇADE COMES TUMBLING DOWN

- Healing the world also means healing ourselves. We got to get real to heal.

**November 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.**

Prayers for Kiese's speedy and complete recovery from cancer.; 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/](http://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](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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](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.

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, DEC 3

- 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](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)

## MONDAY, DEC 4

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

## TUESDAY, DEC 5

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

## WEDNESDAY, DEC 6

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

## THURSDAY, DEC 7

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

## SUNDAY, DEC 10

- 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.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)

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](mailto: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](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org) to get plugged in; for digital ushering, please email Rev. Natalie at [nperkins@middlechurch.org](mailto:nperkins@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:  
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)  
WEBSITE [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org)

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

[Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)  
[Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)  
[YouTube.com/MiddleNYC](https://YouTube.com/MiddleNYC)  
[Instagram.com/middlechurch](https://Instagram.com/middlechurch)  
[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://Instagram.com/revjacquilewis)  
[Twitter.com/middlechurch](https://Twitter.com/middlechurch)  
[Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis](https://Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis)

### HYMN

#### [“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”](#)

(John Mason Neale, Henry Sloane

Coffin, Maren Tirabassi)

O come, O come Emmanuel  
Make true the stories prophets tell  
So all those chained by fear find release  
And, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Is come to birth where all God's children dwell

O Come, Love's-season, to our lonely days  
And guide us in our words and ways  
So all those chained by fear find release  
With healing earth and all that live within.

O come Desire of Nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Make envy, strife and quarrels cease.  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

**BACK**



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"God Of Justice, God of Mercy"

(Jane Parker Huber, Rowland Hugh Prichard)

**God of Justice, God of Mercy**

Jane Parker Huber, 1983  
Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1855

1 God of jus - tice, God of mer - cy, Make us  
2 How can we, as peo - ple cho - sen By your  
3 Grant all peo - ple work with mean - ing, Strength to  
4 So the vi - sion you have plant - ed In each

1 mer - ci - ful and just! Help us see all  
2 grace for serv - ice here— How en - dure an -  
3 care for those they love. Food for ta - ble,  
4 hu - man mind and heart Now be - comes the

1 your cre - a - tion As from you a sa - cred trust.  
2 oth - er's hard - ship with - out of - fering hope or cheer?  
3 truth for tell - ing, Chal - leng - es to rise a - bove.  
4 spark of ac - tion Call - ing us to do our part.

1 And when peo - ple cry in an - guish For their  
2 God, for - give us, we be - seech you, When our  
3 But re - mind us, God of jus - tice, This is  
4 Keep that vi - sion clear be - fore us: Men and

1 own or oth - ers' pain, Show us ways to  
2 love fails to em - power. Teach us how to  
3 now our work, our call! Chang - ing life's op -  
4 wom - en, girls and boys, Val - ued in re -

1 make a dif - ference. O dear God, make us hu - mane!  
2 be more faith - ful In this pres - ent cru - cial hour.  
3 pres - sive sys - tems In - to ones em - pow - ering all.  
4 sponse and wit - ness, Shar - ing chal - leng - es and joys.

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**BACK**



**middle  
church**

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