

RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
ADVENT:
REVITALIZE US!
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 17, 2023 • 11:45 AM • THIRD 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

Elise Tiralli

HYMN

["Away in the Manager"](#)

(William J. Kirkpatrick, James Ramsey Murray)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES/CANDLE OF LOVE

Frog and Toad

(Dean Hubbard)

Elisabeth Rodgers and Dean Hubbard

"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.

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• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Love Is Christmas”

(Sara Bareilles)

LORD’S PRAYER

Ellington Tanner

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

Ellington Tanner

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

ANTHEM “Winter Song”

(Sara Bareilles, Ingrid Michaelson)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: A WALK-ON CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Rev. Natalie Perkins

OFFERTORY “A Soalin”

(Paul Stookey, Tracy Batteast, Elena Mezzetti)

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. Natalie Perkins



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HYMN

[“Put A Little Love In Your Heart”](#)

(Randy Myers, Jimmy Holiday,
Jackie Deshannon)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth • Caelyn Osbern, Carlo Vizioli, Cerentha Cook, Dominick Vizioli, Ellington Tanner, Gabrielle Baen-Brook, Imani Passley, Miranda Oden, Teddy Baptiste, Yo Inaba, Louie Bengson

Sermon Focus: What’s Next?

THIS WEEK: REFRAME LOVE

- It's just Love in the manger. How do we teach our children to midwife it?

LAST WEEK: REPAIR PEACE

- God’s birth is proclaimed by a prophet from the margins, and calls us to follow a pacificism that has too often been marginalized.



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 November 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.

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, DEC 17

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Advent Bible Study](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [December New Members Gathering](#)
- 10:45 a.m.: [Children's Christmas Party](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)

MONDAY, DEC 18

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

TUESDAY, DEC 19

- 8:00 p.m.: [Blue Christmas](#)

WEDNESDAY, DEC 20

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

THURSDAY, DEC 21

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

SUNDAY, DEC 24

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Advent Bible Study](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Christmas Eve 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](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Christmas Eve Worship Celebration & Concert](#)

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

HYMN

“Away in the Manger”

(William J. Kirkpatrick, James Ramsey Murray)

Away In A Manger CHRISTMAS

Words: stanzas 1,2 anonymous published Philadelphia, 1885. stanza 3 John T. MacFarland (1851-1913).
Music: 'Mueller' James R. Murray, 1887. Setting: "Hymnal for American Youth", 1919.
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♩ = 100

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -

Je - sus laid down His sweet head, The stars in the sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes; I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless all the dear child - ren in

down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky And stay by my cra - dle til morn - ing is nigh.
Thy ten - der care, And fit us for Hea - ven to live with Thee there.

[BACK](#)



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HYMN

“Put A Little Love In Your Heart”

(Randy Myers, Jimmy Holiday,
Jackie Deshannon)

Think of your neighbor and
Lend them a helping hand
Put a little love in your heart
You see it's getting late
Oh, please don't hesitate
Put a little love in your heart(Chorus)

And the world will be a better place
And the world will be a better place
For you and me
You just wait and see

Another day goes by
Still the children cry
Put a little love in your heart
If you want the world to know
We won't let hatred grow
Put a little love in your heart(chorus)

Take a good look around
And if you're looking down
Put a little love in your heart
I hope when you decide
Kindness will be your guide
Put a little love in your heart (Chorus)

BACK



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