

RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
ADVENT:
REVITALIZE US!
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

DECEMBER 24, 2023 • 11:45 AM • FOURTH 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

Elise Tiralli and Oscar Mena

HYMN

["O Come All Ye Faithful"](#)

(John Francis Wade, Trans. Frederick Oakeley)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Ben Perry

"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.

• **REFLECTING** •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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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.

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 "Who Would Imagine A King"
Soloist - Carmi Harris

(Mervyn Warren, Haller Hillton Hill)

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2-7

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

SERMONIC HYMM "Angels We Have Heard on High"

SERMON "Rebuild Joy"

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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

Shanta Thake and Tommy Kriegsmann

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night"
Soloist – Eliza Bonet

(John S. Dwight, Adolphe Adam)

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. Ben Perry



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HYMN

["Joy To The World"](#)

(Isaac Watts, alt. Attr. George Frederick Handel, arr. Lowell Mason)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Jon Peretz (Drummer), Booker King (Bass)

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: REBUILD JOY

- A stubborn commitment to rebuild joy will save our lives in these difficult times.
-

LAST WEEK: REFRAME LOVE

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

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.
18 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011

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.



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

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 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.: [Christmas Eve Worship Celebration & Concert](#)

WEDNESDAY, DEC 27

- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, DEC 28

- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing](#)

SUNDAY, DEC 31

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [New Year's 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](#)

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 Middle Collegiate Church
Attn: Stewardship Dept.
18 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM online & 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](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

[Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://www.facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)

[YouTube.com/MiddleNYC](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleNYC)

[Instagram.com/middlechurch](https://www.instagram.com/middlechurch)

[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://www.instagram.com/revjacquilewis)

[Twitter.com/middlechurch](https://twitter.com/middlechurch)

[Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis](https://twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis)



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HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

(John Francis Wade, Trans. Frederick Oakeley)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
 *3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

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ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

BACK



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HYMN

"Joy To The World"

(Isaac Watts, alt. Attr. George Frederick Handel, arr. Lowell Mason)

Joy to the World!

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And
 sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

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BACK



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