



DECEMBER 24, 2023 • 3:00 PM • CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

CANDLE LIGHTING Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft & Family

HYMN “Behold That Star” (Trad., arr. John Del Cueto)

Behold that star, behold that star up yonder
Behold that star, it is the star of Bethlehem.

Call: There was no room found in the inn

Response: It is the star, it is the star

Call: For Him who was born without sin

Response: Behold the star of Bethlehem (chorus after 2 times)

Call: A song broker forth upon the night.

Response: It is the star, it is the star

Call: From angel hosts all robed in white.

Response: Behold the star of Bethlehem (chorus after 2 times)

End: The star of Bethlehem!

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JJGC SELECTION “Hark The Herald”

(Junior Garr, Niiella Dankwah-Coffie)

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2-7

Rev. Ben Perry

JJGC SELECTION “Now Behold the Lamb”

(Kirk Franklin)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “My Lord What A Morning”
Soloist – Noël Wippler

(Trad., arr. John Del Cueto)

LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Ben Perry

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

Monique Fortune

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

READING FROM WORLD

Michelle Hurd

SOLO “Slumber Song of the Madonna”
Soloist – Eliza Bonet

(Michael Head)

SCRIPTURE Luke 1: 46-55

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

SOLO “A Change is Gonna Come”
Soloist – Shari Gill

(Sam Cook)

HOMILY “A Pregnant Pause”

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

“All the world’s children belong to us, this baby born to all of us, and all the children.”

SONG REFLECTION “A Child Is Born”
Soloist – Noël Wippler

(Thad Jones, Alec Wilder)



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INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Antwayn Hopper

OFFERTORY "Jesus Promised"

(Tim Carpenter)

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch

SONG OF THANKS

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ, the Lord

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Devon Mosley

JJGC SELECTION

(Randy Myers, Jimmy Holiday, Jackie Deshannon)

"Put A Little Love in Your Heart"

(arr. John Del Cueto)

Soloists - Carmi Harris, Deborah Berg McCarthy, Malika Edwards

HYMN/CANDLE LIGHTING

"Silent Night"

(Joseph Mohr)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Child of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto



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

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Chior • **ALTO:** Bianca Michalczak, Carla Stewart, Carolyn Eufrazio-Traore, Doria Notarnicola, Eliza Bonet, Jana Quigley, Janet Laing, Jennifer Coleman, Jennifer Wright Cook, Jenny Holman, Joy Lau, Julie Guerrero, Karen Brightly, Karen Katz, Karen Wallace, Kendra Krueger, Lisa Fenger, Marika Yamaguchi, Mary Beth 'MB' Yakoubian, Sandra Anderson, Sandra Santana, Shari Carpenter, Shari Gill, Sophia Diehl, Tanisha Anderson, Tina Cernero **BASS:** Charles 'Skip' Dietrich, Christopher Caramelli, Dean Hubbard, Don Arrington, Ellington Tanner, Jim Pender, Lutin Tanner, Patrick Mulcahy, Ryan McNally **SOPRANO:** Adrienne Hurd, Carmillia Harris, Deborah Berg McCarthy, Elaine Guardo, Gina Simone Pemberton, Jesse Baen, Junko Harada, Kathleen Butler-Duplessis, Kristin Bebelaar, Leslie Davis, Maeve McBride, Malika Edwards, Marion Wise, Natalie Maust, Noël Wippler, Rochelle Doctor, Samantha Waite, Tina Owens **TENOR:** Branch Woodman, Ivan Anderson, Kaede Helck, Matthew Ackerman, Nathan Johnson, Penny Lane, Radnel Ofalso, Riley Soter, Roger Wallin, Roger Turner, Sylvester McCracken

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.

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.



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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://www.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.



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



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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.

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

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

Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch



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