



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD  
**WORSHIP**  
**CELEBRATION**  
REFRAME

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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DECEMBER 31, 2023 • 11:45 AM • NEW YEAR'S EVE

**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. Natalie Perkins

**HYMN**      ["What Child Is This?"](#)

(Chatterton Dix)

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Elise Tiralli

"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. Natalie Perkins

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**LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Natalie Perkins

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. Natalie Perkins

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

**ANTHEM**

"I am Light"  
Soloist – Noël Wippler

(India.Arie Simpson)

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2: 22-40

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

**SERMON**

"I am Love and Light"

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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

Devon Mosley and Tituss Burgess

**OFFERTORY**

"Jesus, O What A Wonderful Child"

(arr. Sam Davis)

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://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

**HYMN**["Once in Royal David's City"](#)

(Cecil Frances Alexander)

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Natalie Perkins



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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-Freeney (Piano), Jon Peretz (Drums)

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## Sermon Focus: What's Next?

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### THIS WEEK: I AM LOVE AND LIGHT

- Do not ever forget that you are love and light wrapped in flesh. That is your primary identity!
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### LAST WEEK: REBUILD JOY

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

**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.**

**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://venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

**To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:**

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.  
18 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 02-147, 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](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 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](#)

## TUESDAY, JAN 2

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

## WEDNESDAY, JAN 3

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

## THURSDAY, JAN 4

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

## SUNDAY, JAN 7

- 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](#)
- 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** Middle Collegiate Church  
18 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 02-147  
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://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)



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## What Child Is This?

CHRISTMAS

Words: William Chatterton Dix, 1865.

Music: 'Greensleeves' 16th Century English Traditional.

Setting: traditional from "The Sunday School Hymnal and Service Book", 1871.

copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

♩ = 80

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest On Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2. Why lies He in such mean e-state. Where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3. So bring Him in-cense. gold and myrrh. Come pea-sant, king to own Him:

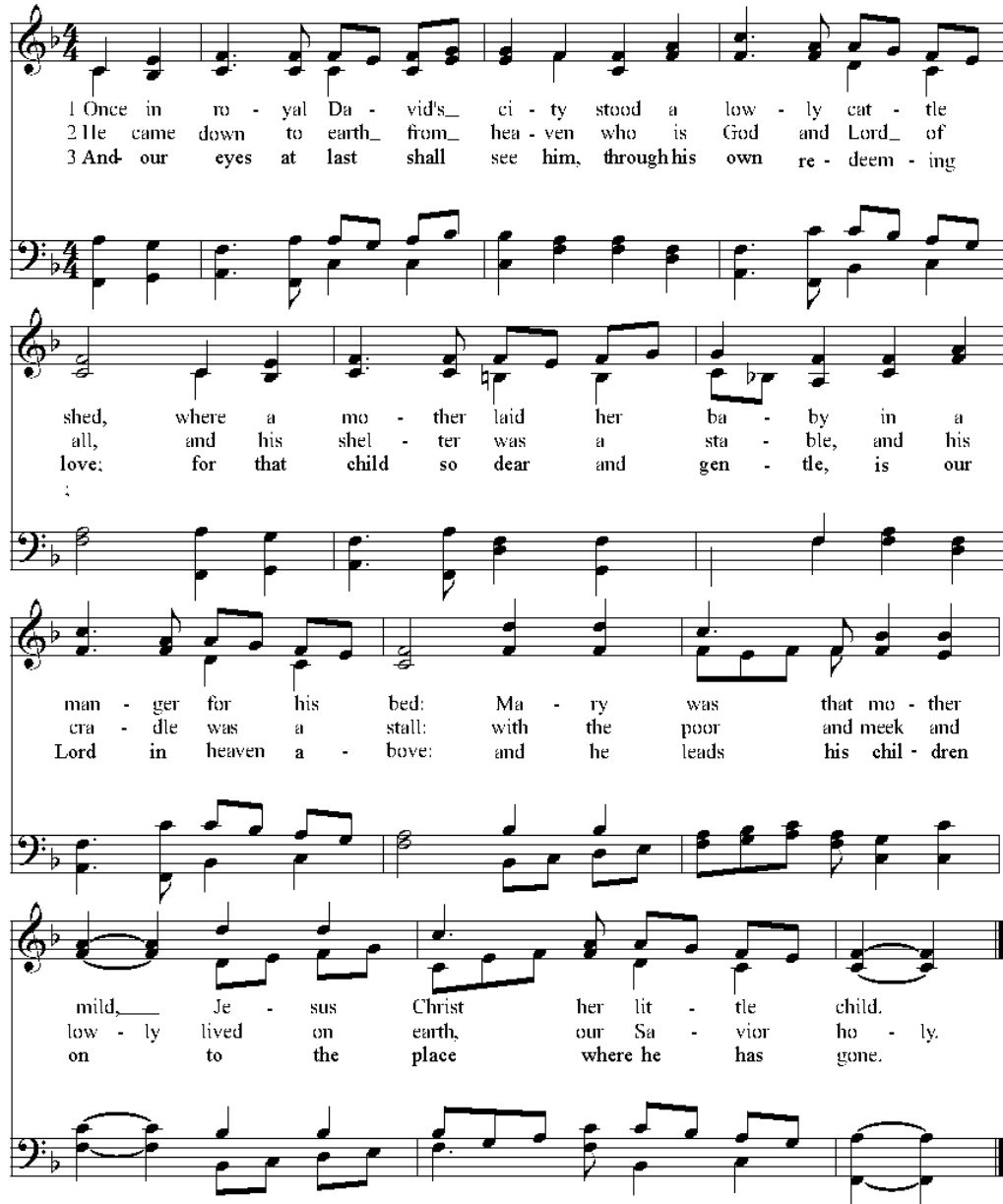
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet. While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Christ-ians, fear, for sin-ners here The si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings. Let lov-ing hearts en-throne Him.

This, this is Christ the King. Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:  
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through. The cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise a song on high. The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by.

Haste, haste, to bring Him laud. The Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh. The Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.  
 Joy, joy for Christ is born. The Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

**BACK**

## Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in ro - yal Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

shed, where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a  
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 love: for that child so dear and gen - tle, is our

man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry was that mo - ther  
 cra - dle was a stall: with the poor and meek and  
 Lord in heaven a - bove: and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child,  
 low - ly lived on the earth, our Sa - vior ho - ly,  
 on to the place where he has gone.

BACK