



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

MARCH 10, 2024 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH •

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

HYMN

“Lead with Love”

(Melanie DeMore)

You gotta put one foot in from of the other
And lead with love
One foot in front of the other
And lead with love

L - Don't give up hope (echo)
L-You're not alone (echo)
L- Don't you give up (echo)
L - Keep movin' on (echo) - chorus

L-Lift up your eyes(echo)
L-Don't you despair (echo)
L-Look up ahead (echo)

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L-The path is there (echo) - chorus

L-I know your scared (echo)

L-And I'm scared too (echo)

L-But here I am (echo)

L-Right next to you (echo) - chorus

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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.

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

“Everyone Deserves to be Free”
Women’s Resistance Revival Chorus

(Deva Mahal)

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 16: 4-7a

Rev. Natalie Perkins

SERMON

“She Who Cherishes Our Hot Mess”

Dr. Christena Cleveland



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• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Deb Williams

OFFERTORY “Light in the Soul”
Women’s Resistance Revival Chorus

(Chinese proverb, music: Sharon Durant,
arr. Ysaye Maria Barnwell)

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

Deb Williams

HYMN “Joy in Resistance”
Women’s Resistance Revival Chorus

(Abena Koomson-Davis)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Bernice Brooks (Drums)

Women’s Resistance Revival Chorus • Abena Koomson-Davis (Director)



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Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: SHE WHO CHERISHES OUR HOT MESS

- Unlike the white patriarchal god who despises our need -- Our Lady of the Sick, the 12th century Black Madonna of Vichy, France affirms our humanity and invites us to bring our messiest selves to Her inclusive altar. We embody Her when we embrace our own needs and the needs of others.

LAST WEEK: MISBEHAVING WOMEN

- How does "Well behaved women seldom make history" translate for you after hearing this sermon?



February 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 February 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 W. 18th 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) 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.

SUNDAY, MAR 10

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [March New Members Gathering](#)
- **11:45 a.m.:** [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Talk Back with Dr. Christena Cleveland](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- **3:00 p.m.:** [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 5:00 p.m.: [A Season of Bright Sadness: Sharing the Lenten Journey through Poetry and Visual Art.](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Lenten Book Study: Notes of a Native Son](#)

MONDAY, MAR 11

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Connections](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAR 13

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

THURSDAY, MAR 14

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

SUNDAY, MAR 17

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Young Adult Leadership Lab](#)
- **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](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Young Adults](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Lenten Book Study: Notes of a Native Son](#)

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 Community Engagements, 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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You. Move. The World.
Freedom Rising 2024: An Election Year Gathering

JOIN A THREE-DAY CONVENING TO NURTURE COLLECTIVE LIBERATION IN THE ELECTION YEAR.

The time to act is now: Our healing starts with us. This spring, join scholars, artists, prophets, and activists to find rest, organize political power, and dream expansively about the world we deserve. When freedom rises, we all flourish.

Get your tickets at freedomrising.org.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister and Public Theologian*

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins – *Minister for Digital Strategy and Engagement*

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Consulting Minister, Public Theology*

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Consulting Community Minister*

MAILING Middle Collegiate Church
18 West 18th Street, Suite 02-147
New York, NY 10011

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM online & in-person at: East
End Temple, 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

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