



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 4, 2024 • 3:00 PM • JUST LOVE PERIOD

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 ["Sweet Sweet Spirit"](#)

(Doris Akers)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE "Done Made My Vow to the Lord"

(arr. Marques L.A. Garrett)

LORD'S PRAYER

Daryl Douglas

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

Daryl Douglas

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

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM “Safety” (Oscar Williams Jr.)
Soloist – Brenda Turner

READING “Notes on a Native Son” Antwain Hopper
James Baldwin

“It took many years of vomiting up all the filth I’d been taught about myself, and half-believed, before I was able to walk on the earth as though I had a right to be here.”

“For Bigger’s tragedy is not that he is cold or black or hungry, not even that he is American, black; but that he has accepted a theology that denies him life, that he admits the possibility of his being sub-human and feels constrained, therefore, to battle for his humanity according to those brutal criteria bequeathed him at his birth. But our humanity is our burden, our life; we need not battle for it; we need only to do what is infinitely more difficult – that is, to accept it.”

“Our crown has already been bought and paid for. All we have to do is wear it.”

SERMON The Fire THIS Time Rev. Rodney McKenzie Jr.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

COMMUNION Rev. Natalie Perkins
Jillian Langford

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

If you’d like to join our movement for love and justice, go to middlechurch.org/join.

OFFERTORY “I’m Gonna Sing Til The Spirit” (Moses Hogan)



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Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch

DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“We Gotta Hold Everybody Up”

(Melanie DeMore)

CHORUS

We’re gonna hold everybody, we’re gonna hold everybody up.
We’re gonna hold everybody, we’re gonna hold everybody up.
Hold everybody up, up, up
Hold everybody up, up, up
Hold everybody up, up, up
Hold everybody up.

Just because you look like you,
and I look like me
Doesn’t mean we can’t be friends,
you’re not my enemy.

CHORUS

People all around the world,
Sometimes feel so sad
But when others show they care
They don’t feel so bad.

CHORUS

BENEDICTION

Rev. Natalie Perkins



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

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



July 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 July 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.

Prayer for all Melvin Cunningham holds in his heart.

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.

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

Sunday Worship and programs happen thanks to our clergy, staff, musicians, volunteers, and all of you who participate in-person and online. We can't do it without you.

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 now in the 3RD and FINAL YEAR of PHASE 1 of our rebuilding campaign that takes us through 2025!



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Your pledges, recurring contributions and one-time donations to Middle land in 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. We are in construction on our 50 E. 7th Street building as Phase 1 and aim to have us back in that building in early 2025. We still 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 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, AUGUST 4

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 4:00 p.m.: [Community Social Hour](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 4:00 p.m.: [Community Social Hour](#)

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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MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister
Macky Alston, M.Div. Executive Minister
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Digital Minister
Jillian Langford, M.PhI, Care & Just Love Minister
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, Justice & Organizing Minister
And Team Middle

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

WORSHIP Sundays 11:45 AM online & 3:00 PM in-
person at: Judson Memorial Church, 55
Washington Square South, New York, NY
10012

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



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Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers, 1962; alt.

Slowly



There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
 know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
 sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
 know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain



Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here
 with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we
 lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have
 been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

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Tune: SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
 9.11.9.11. with refrain

BACK