



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

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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DECEMBER 15TH, 2024 • 3:00 PM • ADVENT – TRANSFORMED BY LOVE

**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 & Matthew Johnson Harris

**LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES**      Alice Dietz and Teddy Baptiste

**HYMN**      “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**      Emma Foster

“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**      A Child Is Born  
Soloist – Noël Wippler

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## LORD'S PRAYER

Jillian Langford

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

Jillian Langford

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

## REFLECTING

### ANTHEM

"This Christmas"  
Soloist – Shari Gill

(Donny Hathaway, Nadine McKinnor)

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 1.39-45

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

SERMON Transformed By Love / Defying Gravity

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

## INVITATION TO REFLECT

## RESPONDING

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Home For Christmas (If Only In My Dreams)

*If you'd like to join our movement for love and justice, go to [middlechurch.org/join](http://middlechurch.org/join).*



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**OFFERTORY** “Defying Gravity”  
Soloist – Caelyn Osbern

(Stephen Schwartz)

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://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**

Matthew Johnson Harris

**HYMN** “O Come All Ye Faithful”

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION**

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**Director of Music and Choirs** John Del Cueto

**Middle Church Band** Graeme Gengras (piano)

**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 them again or share the playlist with friends.



**PRAYER CORNER** *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*  
**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.**

For all those Melvin holds in his heart

**To make a prayer request,** speak to a minister, 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.**

**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 carpeted area. If hearing is an issue, the best place to sit in the sanctuary is front left.

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## 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!

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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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](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://www.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 this code 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.

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## SUNDAY, DEC 15

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Young Adult Leadership Lab](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Hybrid Worship Celebration](#)

## MONDAY, DEC 16

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Queer Connections](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [The Fierce Urgency of Now Task Force Meeting](#)

## WEDNESDAY, DEC 18

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray To Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [New Member Gathering](#)

## THURSDAY, DEC 19

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

## SATURDAY, DEC 21

- 11:00 a.m.: [Young Adults Social - Union Square Market](#)

## SUNDAY, DEC 22

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Hybrid Worship Celebration](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Middle Church events, activities, and the latest updates, scan this code with your smartphone camera.

**Want to get more involved?** Please reach out to our Director of Programs, Events, and Community Engagement, **Elise Tiralli**, to learn more about programming – [etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org).

**We warmly invite you to join our ushering and hospitality ministries!** Every Sunday, we need ushers to offer radical welcome and volunteers to host our Community Social Hour after worship. If you're interested in serving as an usher or sponsoring snacks for the community, please reach out to our Care Minister, **Jillian Langford** – [klangford@middlechurch.org](mailto:klangford@middlechurch.org).



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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister  
Macky Alston, M.Div. Executive Minister  
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Executive Minister for Digital Church  
Jillian Langford, MTS ABD, Minister for Care & Congregational Life  
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, Consulting Minister for Justice & Community Organizing  
And Team Middle

**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 & 3:00 PM  
online & in-person at: Judson Memorial  
Church, 55 Washington Square South,  
New York, NY 10012

**E-MAIL** [middleinfo@middlechurch.org](mailto:middleinfo@middlechurch.org)

**WEBSITE** [middlechurch.org](http://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)

[Jacquilewis.substack.com/](https://Jacquilewis.substack.com/)

[Middlechurch.substack.com/](https://Middlechurch.substack.com/)



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# Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French carol  
Transl. "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heaven - ly song.  
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

From *The New Century Hymnal*, Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press.  
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Tune: GLORIA 7.7.7.7, with refrain  
(LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES)

**BACK**



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# 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!

From *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Songs, and Spiritual Songs*.  
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ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain  
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

**BACK**



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