



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

APRIL 27, 2025 • 11:45 AM • IN CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS

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

["Holy Holy Holy"](#)

(Reginald Heber)

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.

INTRO TO PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jillian Langford, MTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

["You've Got A Friend"](#)

(Carole King)

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LORD'S PRAYER

Jillian Langford, MTS

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, MTS

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

"There Can Be Miracles" (From Joe's Pub)

(Stephen Schwartz/Babyface)

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
N'Kenge

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

¹⁹ So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said* to them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said* to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained." ²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus *came*, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁷ Then He *said* to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus *said* to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see and *yet* believed."



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³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

SERMON

Believing Is Seeing

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO JOIN MOVEMENT

Kim Irwin

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

OFFERTORY

“Bridge Over Troubled Water”

(Simon & Garfunkel)

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.

(Trad.)

DEDICATION PRAYER

Kim Irwin

HYMN

[“Consider Yourself”](#)

(Lionel Bart)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (piano), Hajime Yoshida (guitar)

March 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.



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

Prayers for Matthew Giannone and family through their cancer journey; for all those Melvin holds in his heart; for the health and healing of Sierra Goodale.

To make a prayer request, speak to a minister, or inquire about financial assistance, visit middlechurch.org/prayer/.



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Welcome to Middle Church

We are glad you're here today! If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out the card you were given with the bulletin and drop it in the offering bag when it comes by. We hope you'll come back often to be with us!

To learn more about the history of this church— we call it a movement — or to learn about New Members classes, or to get involved with our community groups, visit us at www.middlechurch.org.

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.

GIVING AT MIDDLE

Our new sacred space is almost complete! Easter Sunday 2025 is our return to 50 E. 7th Street as we near the end of Phase 1 of rebuilding on our site following our tragic fire in 2020. Thanks to our dedicated members and friends, our three-year Middle Rising "One Fund" Campaign is almost complete as well. It is now time to fund what we put into this building! We've raised \$9.3M of our \$10.5M goal to fund Middle's operations, staff, programming, and some of the construction costs. We have \$1.2 million dollars left to raise to complete our Middle Rising building campaign by June 30, 2025.

You can help us complete this campaign to Restore and Renew our Ministry Brick by Brick. Starting Easter Sunday through May 15th, you have the opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick to make your mark on this journey. Every brick you fund becomes part of Middle's story, a testament to the power of collective love and resilience. **A Commitment to Freedom Rising** - \$1,000 per brick placed near our Liberty Bell on the Freedom Wall, symbolizing our quest for justice and liberation. **A Celebration of Middle Rising** - \$250 per brick placed near our elevators, symbolizing our rise from the ashes. To purchase a brick visit <https://www.middlechurch.org/middle-rising>.



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! Please visit www.middlechurch.org/donate to make your gifts to support our ongoing operations and programming of this new building. We are the ones we've been waiting for and together, with you onboard, we will have enough!

Love— *Jacqui, Vickie Burns—Board Chair, and the entire Middle Church Board*



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To support our ongoing ministry, programs, operations, and rebuilding:

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch
- To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:

Middle Collegiate Church
Attn: Stewardship Dept.
50 E. 7th Street, New York, NY 10003

**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 Office (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.



Middle Events Calendar

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit middlechurch.org for details and the latest updates.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)

11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)

12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)

MONDAY, APRIL 28

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 1

1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)

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

SUNDAY, MAY 4

11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)

12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)

1:00 p.m.: VCCY

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.

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** – jlaford@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, 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
PO Box 1400
New York NY 10276

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM ET online & in-person
at: Middle Collegiate Church
50 East 7th Street 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
Jacquilewis.substack.com/
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Holy, Holy, Holy *Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.*

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Words: Reginald Heber, Music: John B. Dykes, Word Alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
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Tune: NICAEA 11.12.12.10. *John B. Dykes, 1861*

BACK



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When you're down and troubled
And you need some loving care
And nothin', nothin' is goin' right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night

Chorus:

You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I'll come runnin' to see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend

If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that ol' north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door (Chorus)

Ain't it good to know that you've got a friend
When people can be so cold
They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them
Oh, but don't you let them

BACK

When you're weary
Feeling small
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I'm on your side
Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found

chorus:

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you
I'll take your part
Oh, when darkness comes
And pain is all around (chorus)

Sail on, silver girl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine
Oh, if you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind.

BACK

Consider yourself at home
Consider yourself one of the family
We've taken to you so strong
It's clear we're going to get along

Consider yourself well in
Consider yourself part of the furniture
There isn't a lot to spare
Who cares? Whatever we've got, we share

If it should chance to be we should see some harder days
Empty larder days, why grouse?
Always a chance we'll meet somebody to foot the bill
Then the drinks are on the house

Consider yourself my mate
We don't wanna have no fuss
For after some consideration we can state
Consider yourself one of us

BACK