



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

JUNE 22, 2025 • 11:45 AM • JUNETEENTH • FREEDOM SUNDAY TWO

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

["We've Come This Far By Faith"](#)

(Albert A. Goodson)

MFAA

Zayn Silva

SIYAHAMBA

(Teren Burroughs)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

["Oh Lord, I Want You To Help Me"](#)

(Trad.)

Lead - Ivan Anderson

LORD'S PRAYER

Ivan Anderson

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

Ivan Anderson

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

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

["I Can't Deny It"](#)

Lead - Carolyn Eufrazio Traore

(Margaret Douroux)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 8:26-39

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

²⁶ Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes,^[a] which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn^[b] any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus^[c] had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons^[d] begged Jesus^[e] to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes^[f] asked Jesus^[g] to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus^[h] sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

SERMON

They Might Turn Around And Follow Jesus

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO JOIN MOVEMENT

Tiq Milan

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



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OFFERTORY

“Today”

Leads – Alex Bertrand, Shari Gill

(Kirk Franklin)

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @[@MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.venmo.com/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.

(Trad.)

DEDICATION PRAYER

Danita Branam

HYMN

[“What The World Needs Now”](#)

(Hal David, Burt Bacharach)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

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

May 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.

Prayers For the friends and family of Sierra Goodale as they mourn her loss and celebrate her life.

Prayers for Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft and family as they navigate Horace’s recent diagnosis with strength and care.

Prayers for Karen Brightly as she recovers in the hospital.

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

Happy Father's Day! 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, JUNE 22

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Congregational Retreat](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 23

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

- 6:30 p.m.: [Poster-Making for Pride](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Sierra Goodale Memorial Service](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)
- 9:00 p.m.: [Jamie's Naming Ceremony](#)

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Pride Sunday: Queer Liberation March](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [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.



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** – jlangford@middlechurch.org.



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middle  church
JUST LOVE



FREEDOM SUMMER CAMP

SIGN UP TODAY!

Grades K - 3
July 9 - 11

Grades 4 - 6
Aug 25 - 29



Email jlangford@middlechurch.org for more information!

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
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We've come this far by faith,
 Leaning on the Lord
 Trusting in God's holy word
 God's never failed us yet.

Oh, can't turn around
 We've come this far by faith.

BACK

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Oh Lord, I Want You To Help Me”

(Trad.)

Oh Lord, I want you to help me,
 Oh Lord, I want you to help me.
 Help me on my journey,
 Help me on my way
 Oh Lord, I want you to help me

While I'm down here singin'
 I want you to help me.
 While I'm down here singin'
 I want you to help me.
 Help me on my journey,
 Help me on my way
 Oh Lord, I want you to help me

While I'm down here shoutin;
 I want you to help me
 While I'm down here shoutin;
 I want you to help me
 Help me on my journey,
 Help me on my way
 Oh Lord, I want you to help me

While I'm down here prayin'
 I want you to help me
 While I'm down here prayin'
 I want you to help me
 Help me on my journey,
 Help me on my way
 Oh Lord, I want you to help me

While I'm down here workin;
 I want you to help me,
 While I'm down here workin;
 I want you to help me,
 Help me on my journey,
 Help me on my way
 Oh Lord, I want you to help me

BACK



What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No, not just for some but for everyone

Lord, we don't need another mountain
There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb
There are oceans and rivers enough to cross
Enough to last 'til the end of time

What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No, not just for some but for everyone

Lord, we don't need another meadow
There are cornfields and wheat fields enough to grow
There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to shine
Oh, listen, Lord, if You want to know

What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No, not just for some, oh, but just for every,
every, everyone

[BACK](#)