



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
REFRAME

Sunday Worship Celebration

AUGUST 31, 2025 • 11:45 AM • JUST LOVE LIBERATES

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

["As A Fire Is Meant For Burning"](#)

(Ruth Duck)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Jillian Langford

SIYAHAMBA

//We are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God//

(Trad.)

//We are marching, marching, we are marching
Marching we are marching in the light of God//

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

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.)

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Macky Alston

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

“Simple Song”

(Leonard Bernstein)

Soloist – Tanisha Anderson

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34

Macky Alston

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

SERMON

Two Or Three Things I Believe To Be True

Macky Alston

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO JOIN MOVEMENT

Danita Branam

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

OFFERTORY

“My Souls Been Anchored In The Lord ”

(Florence Price)

Soloist – Tanisha Anderson

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

Danita Branam



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HYMN

[“For Everyone Born”](#)

(Shirley Erena Murray)

BENEDICTION

Macky Alston

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto
Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Pianist)



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 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.

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

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.



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GIVING AT MIDDLE

Our campaign is complete, but our fundraising isn't finished. There is still work to fund inside and outside these walls.

Middle has always been more than a building—it's the love, justice, music, art, and community that flow within and beyond our sacred space. To keep that spirit thriving, we need your continued support for all the vital things that make Middle, Middle: our staff, programs, worship, justice work, and care for one another.

Your giving today fuels this ministry of fierce love. Together, we are not just restoring a church, we are building the movement for justice and joy our world so deeply needs.

Please give at middlechurch.org/donate/.

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*

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.



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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 31

10:00 a.m.: [Bible in The Middle](#)
10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
1:00 p.m.: Community Social Hour

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

6:00 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing](#)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 a.m.: [Bible in The Middle](#)
11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
1:00 p.m.: Community Social Hour

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 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/

Middlechurch.substack.com/



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1. As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

2. We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

3. As a green bud in the springtime
is the sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

[BACK](#)

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



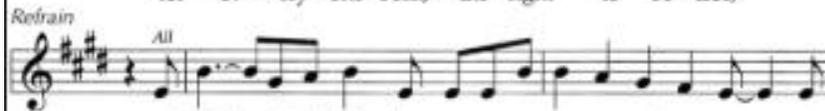
for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - get, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1996
 MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006
 First © 1998 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin: General Board of Global Ministries via GBCAAski)

FOR EVERYONE BORN
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

BACK



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