



LOVE MADE FLESH: CHRISTMAS MADE REAL

middle church

JUST LOVE

WWW.MIDDLECHURCH.ORG

DECEMBER 25, 2025 • 11:00 AM • CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

• **GATHERING** •

WELCOMING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

OPENING SONG

“Wonderful”
Ivan Anderson – Lead

(Ivan Anderson)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Universal Child”

(Annie Lennox)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

Macky Alston

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“The Artist’s Prayer”
Shari Gill and Alfredo Colon

(Dionne McClain-Freeney)

LORD’S PRAYER

Edna Benitez

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.**

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

AMEN

Congregation

(Spiritual)

• REFLECTING •

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

Kaliswa Brewster
Matthew Johnson Harris

VIDEO SELECTION

"You're My Joy"

Lulie Haddad
(Titus Burgess)

MUSICAL PRAYER

"O Holy Night"
Elizabeth Stanley – Lead

(Placide Cappeau, Adolphe Adam,
John Sullivan Dwight)

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-9

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

SERMON

Midwifing Love and Liberation

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

HYMN

["O Come All Ye Faithful"](#)

John Francis Wade

INVITATION TO JOIN MOVEMENT

Peter Hedges – Speaker

DANCE

"Breath of Heaven"
Madge Dietrich – Lead
Dancers – Lutin Tanner, Adrienne Hurd and Company

(Amy Grant and Chris Eaton,
arr. By Dionne McClain-Freeney)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

AMEN

"We Shall Overcome"
Kayla Davion - Lead

(Tituss Burgess)

CLOSING SONG

"Angels We Have Heard on
High"

(trad., arr. John Del Cueto)



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto
Director of Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir
Director of Love Made Flesh • Charles Randolph Wright
Video Production • Mike Lennon & Middle Church Media Team



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 the health and wellness of Beth, Janet, Karen, and Shay.
For those experiencing loss: For Jocelyn who lost her father; for Madge who lost her grandmother; for everyone missing a beloved at the table.
For the caretakers among us and the people we care for.
For Rosanny and her father, for Sandra and her neighbor, for Jen and her family.
With thanksgiving for the Middle Church Board, for all who steward this community with their time, talent and treasure.*

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

Back by Popular Demand! Our brick campaign is here again and you can still leave a lasting mark on Middle Church's future in the very foundation of our renewed home.

Bricks are a powerful way to honor loved ones, celebrate milestones, and show your commitment to love, justice, and joy. Each engraved brick will be placed on our Rising Wall or Freedom Wall, symbols of our collective story and our bold vision for the future.

Your gift not only secures your place in Middle's history, it fuels the fierce love that flows through our worship, justice work, art, and care for one another.

Give a brick today: <https://secure.everyaction.com/kUHfiP3LYUaN5yxP5lgLKw2>

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*



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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, DECEMBER 14

10:00 a.m.: [Just Love Family Programming](#)
10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
11:45 a.m.: [Love Made Flesh: Christmas Made Real](#)
11:45 a.m.: [Just Love Children's Christmas Party](#)
12:45 p.m.: [Chat & Chew - Hybrid](#)
1:30 p.m.: [Just Love Afternoon of Action & Community Meal](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class - Hybrid](#)
7:00 p.m.: [Queer Connections](#)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise: Blue Christmas Edition](#)
7:00 p.m.: [New Members Gathering](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
1:00 p.m.: [Holiday Meal and Gifting with guests from Housing Shelter](#)
6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing](#)
7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

1:00 p.m.: [Holiday Party with New New Yorkers](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00 a.m.: [Just Love Family Programming](#)
10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform](#)
11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
12:00 p.m.: [Just Love Kids](#)
12:45 p.m.: [Chat & Chew - Hybrid](#)
1:00 p.m.: [Community Social Hour](#)
2:00 p.m.: [Caroling & Cocoa](#)

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



Want to get more involved? To learn more about programs, regular volunteer opportunities, and community groups, please reach out to our Director, Events and Community Center, **Elise Tiralli** - etiralli@middlechurch.org.

Want to host your next event at Middle? Visit middlechurch.org/rentals to find our rates and inquiry form here:



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Our LGBTQIA2S+ Welcome Home event warmly invites our LGBTQIA2S+, queer, and trans community members to fellowship in person and dream about programming at Middle. Save the date for Sunday, January 11th.



Looking for meaningful Christmas gifts?

This season, you can honor a loved one with a commemorative Middle Rising brick or a **one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry crafted from the original Tiffany glass saved from the fire**. Both are available in limited quantities, so act today! Your gift fuels the fierce love that makes Middle Middle.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister: Public Theology and Partnerships

Macky Alston, M.Div. Executive Minister: Operations and Development

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Executive Minister: Hybrid Church

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft: Community Minister: Justice & Community Organizing

Making it Happen: Middle Church Staff, and YOU!

MAILING Middle Collegiate Church
50 E 7th Street
New York NY 10003

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM ET online & in-person at: Middle Collegiate Church
50 East 7th Street New York, NY
10003

E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org

WEBSITE middlechurch.org

PHONE (212) 477-0667

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

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Twitter.com/middlechurch

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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, Copyright © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
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ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

BACK



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