

JUST LOVE LIBERATES



middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MARCH 29, 2026 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH • LENT

• GATHERING •

INTROIT

Mike Lennon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:1-11

Antwayn Hopper

¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed the two to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

¹⁰ "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹ Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is a Word from God for the People of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR EXCERPTS

(Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice)

Heaven on their Minds

Judas – Madge Dietrich

[What's The Buzz](#)

Jesus – Dan Elmore
Mary – Gabbi Beauvais

I Don't Know How to Love Him

Mary – Branch Woodman

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Anna Polovick-Waggy

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

OFFERTORY

[Hosanna](#)

(Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice)

Jesus – Michael Inge
Caiaphas – Parron Allen Edwards-Stimola

Everything's Alright

Jesus – Rev Dr. Jacqui Lewis
Mary – Aly Palmer
Judas – Madge Dietrich

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleChurch

HOMILY

Palms and Circumstances

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

Gethsemane

Jesus – Ivan Anderson

Herod's Song

Herod – Justin Senense

CLOSING HYMN

Hosanna Reprise

(Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice)

Ben Uniake

BENEDICTION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Asher Denburg (piano), Booker King (bass),
Jonathon Peretz (drums), Hajime Yoshida (guitar)

February 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 We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Please pray with us this week for these people:

Allan Dabrio Marrero & Matthew, Piero Bracamonte and Peter Calderon his uncle, Kathe Lovegren, Tonya & Susan Evans, Troy Pinkney, Sheryl Williams & friend Jo Anne, Stephen Hanna & little Maverick, Carol Geu, Tere Blessings, Elise Tiralli, Rev. Amanda Hambrick, Antwayn Hopper, Leslie Hahne, Julia Bartholomew-King, Yuvania Espino, La'Shawna Munroe, for all of those whom Melvin Cunningham holds in his heart, the LGBTQIA+ community, and for the safety and well-being of all in our Middle community.

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

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, Community Minister, Justice & Community Organizing
Making it Happen: Middle Church Staff, and YOU!

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

Share our message on social media
and invite others to like, follow, and connect
with us.

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

Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis
YouTube.com/MiddleNYC
Instagram.com/middlechurch
Instagram.com/revjacquilewis
Twitter.com/middlechurch
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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 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 Church.

GIVING AT MIDDLE

As of January 1, 2026, all contributions made to Middle Church, reserved and restricted for the sole and exclusive use by Middle Church, are, for federal income tax purposes, treated as contributions made to Congregational Collegiate Collective, Inc. and are deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

Our new legal name is Middle Ministry, LLC, but we are authorized to do business and be known as Middle Church. All donations should be written to Middle Church. The parent entity is named: Congregational Collegiate Collective, Inc. EIN# 90-0458939 and is a nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

You will see references to our new parent entity's name and EIN on our website, within 2026 donation acknowledgement communications and donor directories such as Candid and GuideStar.

HERE ARE ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT MIDDLE CHURCH

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!



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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 @MiddleChurch

To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address to:

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

Charitable Giving will require a search by EIN 90-0458939 Congregational Collegiate Collective in order to select Middle Church. Please reach out to our Stewardship Office (stewardship@middlechurch.org) for instructions regarding giving securities or 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.



THIS SACRED MESS

New conversation with Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Dear ones,

So many of you write to me about the real places of your lives. Questions about faith, family, justice, love, grief, calling, doubt, hope, and how to stay human in a complicated world. I carry those stories with deep care.

I wanted to create a gentle, intentional space for that sharing.

This Sacred Mess is an open invitation. If there is something in your life that feels tender, tangled, unresolved, or simply human, you are welcome to share it with me. I will respond with reflection, presence, and blessing.

Think of it as a kind of pastoral Dear Abby for the sacred, messy parts of being alive.

Anything you share will be held in confidence. When I respond publicly, all identifying details will be removed so your story remains anonymous and protected.

You may send your questions or situations by DM on Instagram or by email at jlewis@middlechurchech.org. Please put Sacred Mess in the subject line.

You are not alone in what you are carrying.

With love,
Jacqui



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Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 10:00 AM [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
- 10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 AM** [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:00 PM [Just Love Kids](#)
- 12:45 PM [Chat & Chew – Hybrid](#)
- 1:00 PM [Queer Roundtable Discussion](#)
- 1:00 PM [Community Social Hour](#)
- 1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

MONDAY, MARCH 30

- 3:00 PM [My Joy is Heavy Care Package Drive](#)
- 6:30 PM [Acting Class – Hybrid](#)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

- 6:00 PM [Creative Writing: Salmagundi Club](#)
- 7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
- 6:00 PM [Watered with Tears: A Lenten Study of Scripture and Song – Online](#)
- 7:00 PM [Ukuleliacs – Online](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

- 1:00 PM [New Adventures – Online](#)
- 6:30 PM [Creative Writing – Online](#)
- 7:00 PM [Maundy Thursday Worship – Online](#)
- 7:00 PM [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- 11:00 AM [Good Friday Worship – Online](#)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

- 7:00 PM [Watered with Tears: A Holy Saturday Vigil of Scripture and Song – Online](#)

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- 9:30 AM** [Easter Worship Celebration](#)
- 10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
- 10:45 AM [Just Love Children & Youth Easter Party](#)
- 11:45 AM** [Easter Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:00 PM [Just Love Kids](#)
- 12:45 PM [Chat & Chew – Hybrid](#)

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit middlechurch.org for details and updates.

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 or scan this code to find our rates and inquiry form here:



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HYMN

What's The Buzz

(Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice)

What's the buzz?
Tell me what's a-happening. (repeat 8 times)

Jesus sings

What's the buzz?
Tell me what's happening. (repeats)

When do we ride into Jerusalem? (repeats)

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HYMN

Hosanna

(Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice)

(Crowd)
Hosanna Heysanna Sanna Sanna Ho
Sanna Hey Sanna Ho Sanna
Hey J C, J C won't you smile at me?
Sanna Ho Sanna Hey Superstar

(Caiaphas)
Tell the rabble to be quiet
We anticipate a riot
This common crowd
Is much too loud
Tell the mob who sing your song
That they are fools and they are wrong
They are a curse
They should disperse

(Crowd)
Hosanna Heysanna Sanna Sanna Ho
Sanna Hey Sanna Ho Sanna
Hey J C, J C you're alright by me
Sanna Ho Sanna Hey Superstar

(Jesus)
Why waste your breath moaning at the crowd?
Nothing can be done to stop the shouting
If ev'ry tongue was still the noise would still continue
The rocks and stones themselves would start to sing:

(Crowd, with Jesus)
Hosanna Heysanna Sanna Sanna Ho
Sanna Hey Sanna Ho Sanna
Hey J C, J C won't you fight for me?
Sanna Ho Sanna Hey Superstar

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