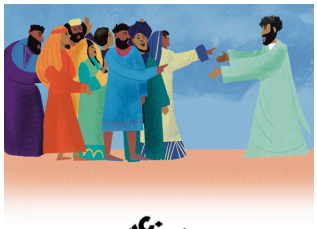


WELCOMING. ARTISTIC. INCLUSIVE. BOLD.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

APRIL 12, 2026 • 11:45 AM • EASTERTIDE

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN Come and Find the Quiet Center (Shirley Erena Murray, Attr. To B. F. White)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Amanda Hambrick

SIYAHAMBA

We are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God.
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.
We are marching, we are marching
We are marching, in the light of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE I Don't Feel Noways Tired

(James Cleveland) – music by Curtis Burrell; arr. J. Del Cueto/D. McClain-Freeney

Cheryl Cochran, reader • Cassondra James Kellam, soloist
Trio: Shari Gill, Dionne McClain-Freeney, Alex Bertrand
Band: Dionne McClain-Freeney, keyboard;
Jonathon Peretz, drums; BAASSIK, bass; Jeremy Price, Hammond organ

LORD'S PRAYER Monique Fortuné

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.**

CHORAL AMEN (Trad.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE Monique Fortuné

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 The Impossible Dream (Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion)
Andrè Ferguson

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-31 Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the
disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with
you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they
saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send
you.” 22 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, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So
the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the
nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors
were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas,
“Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but
believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed
because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But
these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that
through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON Proof of Life Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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

OFFERTORY God Has Smiled On Me (music by Isaiah Jones, Jr.; arr. J. Homme, M. Lalli)
Sam Waite, soloist

*Donate at **middlechurch.org/donate** or Venmo **@MiddleChurch***

DOXOLOGY (Trad.)

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.

DEDICATION PRAYER Danita Branam

HYMN For Everyone Born (Shirley Erena Murray/Brian Mann)

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Graeme Gengras (pianist)

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.

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

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM ET online & in-person at: Middle 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
Instagram.com/revjacquilewis
Twitter.com/middlechurch
Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis
Jacquilewis.substack.com/
Middlechurch.substack.com/

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

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!

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

middle church

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

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@middlechurech.org. Please put Sacred Mess in the subject line.

You are not alone in what you are carrying.

With love,
Jacqui

Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

10:00 AM Just Love Family Programming
10:00 AM Bible in the Middle
10:00 AM Voter Reform Meeting
11:45 AM Worship Celebration
Please join us for worship and a congregational conversation, followed by a light meal.
12:00 PM Just Love Kids
12:45 PM Chat & Chew – Hybrid
1:00 PM Community Social Hour
1:15 PM Village Chorus for Children & Youth
1:30 PM Leadership Lab – In Person
**New New Yorkers Community Partnership Dinner. *Please contact Rev. Amanda for details*
2:00 PM On the Ground: Voices from a Jerusalem-Gaza Mutual Aid Network – Judson Memorial Church

MONDAY, APRIL 13

6:30 PM Acting Class – Hybrid

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

7:30 PM Cancer Support Group – Online
7:30 PM Praying Dangerously – Online
7:00 PM East Village Group – AA
8:30 PM East Village Group – AA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 AM Pray to Rise – Online
7:00 PM New Members Gathering – Online

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

1:00 PM New Adventures – Online
6:00 PM Next 250 Town Hall
6:30 PM Creative Writing – Online
6:30 PM Leadership Lab – Online Cohort
7:00 PM Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

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 Community Social Hour
1:15 PM Village Chorus for Children & Youth
2:00 PM Middle Players

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.

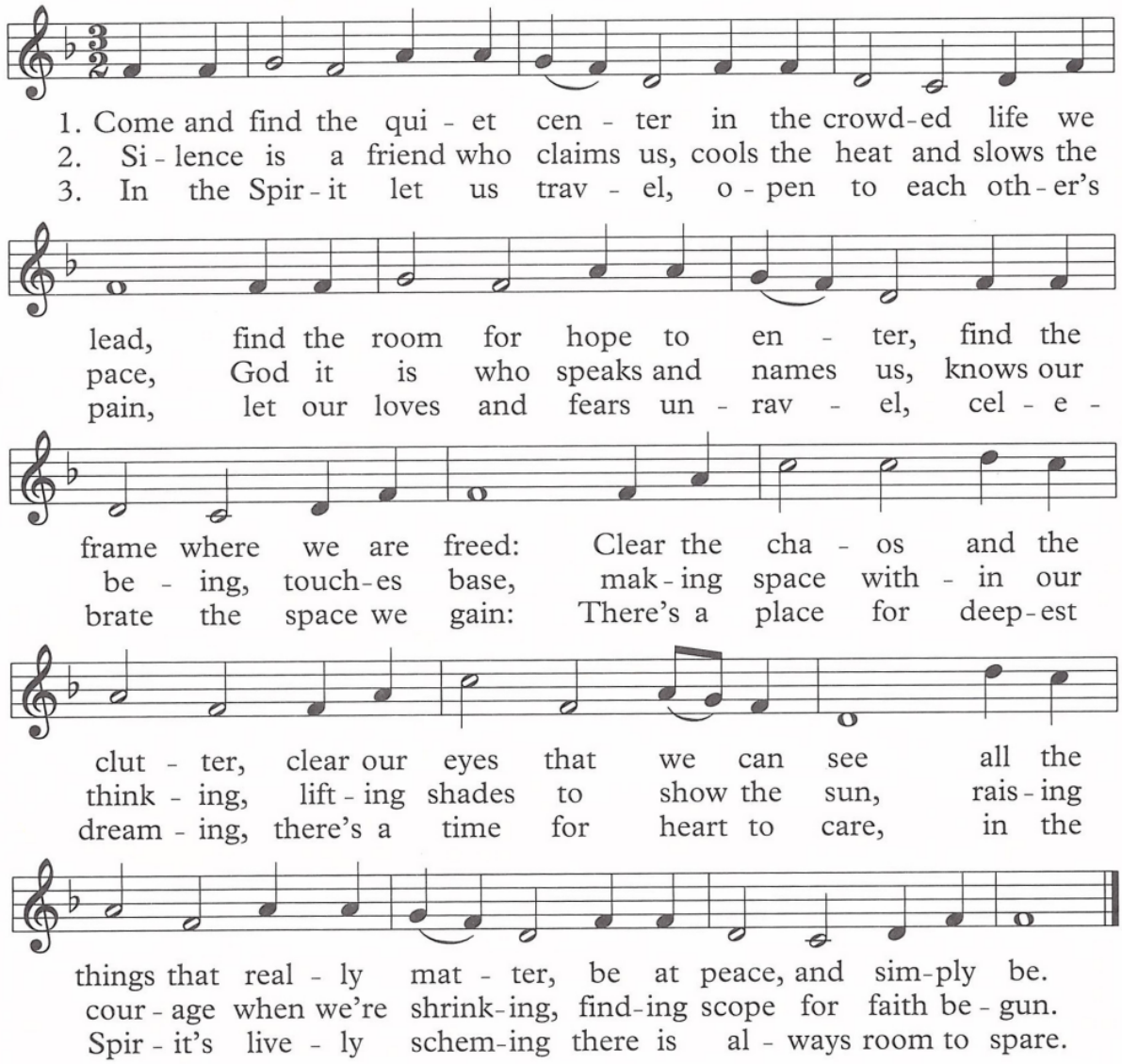
Want to host your next event at Middle?
Visit middlechurch.org/rentals or scan this code to find our rates and inquiry form here:

middle church

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

HYMN Come and Find the Quiet Center (Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice)

GRACE

2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White

BEACH SPRING
87.87 D

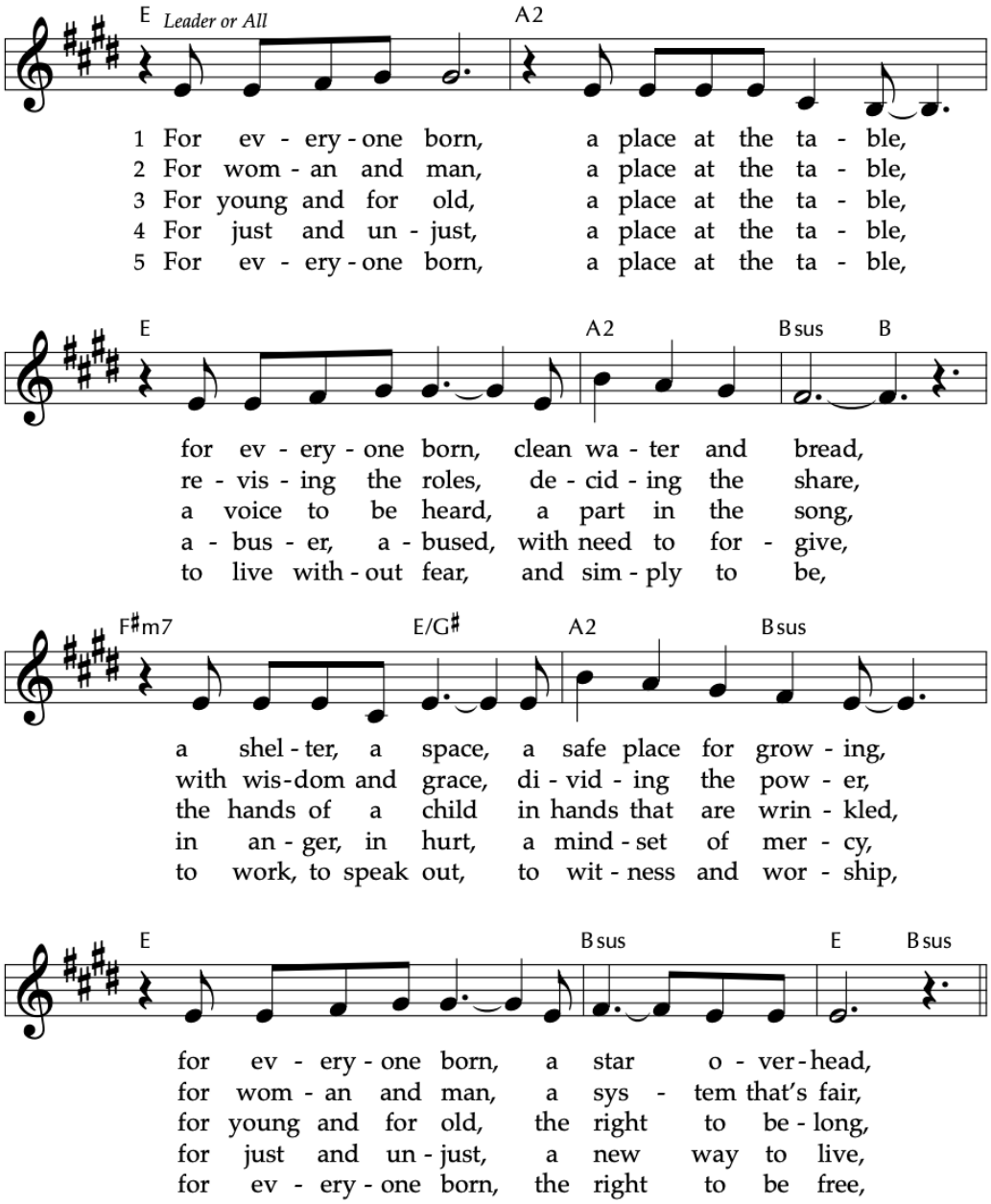
Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Back to Bulletin

HYMN [For Everyone Born](#) (Shirley Erena Murray/Brian Mann)

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

769 For Everyone Born



[Back to Bulletin](#)