



APRIL 5, 2026 • 9:30 AM • 11:45 AM • EASTER

• GATHERING •

INTROIT	JJGC
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
HYMN	<u>"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"</u> (Charles Wesley)
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Macky Alston
LORD'S PRAYER	Macky Alston

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	Macky Alston

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

• REFLECTING •

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

ANTHEM

Halo

(Beyoncé / Ryan Tedder / Evan Bogart) arr. Ivan Anderson
JJGC, Helen White

SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

Learning How to See

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

**All children are invited to gather around the communion table.*

Please allow plenty of time to make your way to the front.

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

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

OFFERTORY

Hosanna

(Kirk Franklin)
JJGC

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleChurch



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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

Rev. Amanda Hambrick

HYMN

[Hallelujah - from "Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration"](#)

(George F. Handel, Arr. by Mervyn Warren, Michael O. Jackson and Mark Kibble)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Graeme Gengras (Piano), Booker King (Bass), Jonathon Peretz (Drums)

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.



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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, Ester Gherzi, 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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PHONE (212) 477-0667



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!



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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, 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](#)
- 1:00 PM [Community Social Hour](#)
- 1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

MONDAY, APRIL 6

- 6:30 PM [Acting - Online](#)

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

- 8:00 AM [Prayer Shawl Project - Online](#)
- 7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
- 7:30 PM [Praying Dangerously – Online](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
- 7:30 PM [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- 1:00 PM [New Adventures – Online](#)
- 6:30 PM [Creative Writing – Online](#)
- 6:30 PM [Leadership Lab – Online Cohort](#)
- 7:00 PM [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

- 10:00 AM [Street Fair](#)

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](#)
- 12:00 PM [Just Love Kids](#)
- 12:45 PM [Chat & Chew – Hybrid](#)
- 1:00 PM [Community Social Hour](#)
- 1:00 PM [Leadership Lab – In Person](#)
- 1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

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 QR code



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's annual 2nd Ave Street Fair is on Saturday, April 11th from 10am-6pm, with special performances from 1pm-4pm. Join us on our block (2nd Ave b/n E. 6th & E. 7th) or at our satellite table on E. 12th for games, snacks, spiritual conversations, kid-friendly activities, and more. Email Elise if you can volunteer (etiralli@middlechurch.org).



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HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

(Charles Wesley)

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

[Back to Bulletin](#)

HYMN

Hallelujah - from "Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration"
(George F. Handel, Arr. by Mervyn Warren, Michael O. Jackson and Mark Kibble)

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The kingdom of this world is become
The kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ
And of His Christ, and of His Christ

And He shall reign forever and ever

King of Kings, for ever and ever
And Lord of Lords, Hallelujah Hallelujah
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords
And He shall reign forever and ever
King of Kings forever and ever
And Lord of Lords Hallelujah Hallelujah

And He shall reign forever and ever
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords
And He shall reign for ever and ever

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Forever and ever
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah - Amen

[Back to Bulletin](#)



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