



MAY 10, 2026 • 11:45 AM • EASTERTIDE • APIDA MONTH

• GATHERING •

INTROIT

We Magnify Your Name

(Richard Smallwood)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, Band

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Macky Alston

HYMN

[Many and Great, O God](#)

(Joseph R. Renville)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Just Love Kids Team

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

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.**

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CHORAL AMEN

(Trad.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

Being Alive

(Stephen Sondheim)
Justin Senense

SCRIPTURE

John 14:15-21

Anu Gupta

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and is in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

SERMONIC SELECTION

Motherless Child

(Spiritual)
Nöel Wippler

SERMON

Not Left Orphaned: Finding Divine Mother In Troubled Times

Anu Gupta

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Shanta Thake

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

OFFERTORY

No Matter What I'm Gonna Keep On

(Raymond Wise)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo [@MiddleChurch](https://venmo.com/MiddleChurch)

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

Shanta Thake

HYMN

[Saranam, Saranam](#)

(Traditional South Indian)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, Asher Denburg (Piano), Booker King (Bass), Jonathon Peretz (Drums)

April 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, Carol Geu, Leslie Hahne, Julia Bartholomew-King, La'Shawna Munroe, Jeff Mummert, Mary Lou Driscoll, Sofi Brazzeal, Donna Johnson, Dale Dorlin, 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/.



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Welcome to Middle Church

We are glad you're here today! If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to head to middlechurch.org/welcome to learn more about Middle and to get connected. 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 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.

HERE ARE ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT MIDDLE CHURCH

Back by Popular Demand! 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: bit.ly/4su4wHr 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.

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! 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*

MAKE A DONATION TO MIDDLE CHURCH

Charitable Giving will require a search by EIN 90-0458939 Congregational Collegiate Collective in order to select Middle Church. Congregational Collegiate Collective 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.

Our new legal name is Middle Ministry, LLC, as a wholly owned subsidiary, but we are authorized to do business and be known as Middle Church. All donations should be written to Middle Church.

Please reach out to our Stewardship Office (stewardship@middlechurch.org) to discuss any questions about your giving plan.

To support our ongoing ministry, programs, operations, and rebuilding:

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo [@MiddleChurch](https://www.venmo.com/@MiddleChurch)

To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:

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

DONATE BY PHONE

To make a donation to Middle Church, scan this QR code.



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

MAILING	Middle Church 50 E 7 th 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 7 th 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 Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis Jacquilewis.substack.com/ Middlechurch.substack.com/
E-MAIL	middleinfo@middlechurch.org	
WEBSITE	middlechurch.org	
PHONE	(212) 477-0667	

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Middle Church is part of New York's Reformed Association of the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination. For more information about the UCC please visit ucc.org.

You can sign up for Happenings—the weekly newsletter—to stay abreast of what the New York Conference Association is doing. If you have signed up for Happenings, the eblast from the New York Conference, and you aren't receiving it, please check your spam folders. If you would like to sign up to receive Happenings every Wednesday, visit bit.ly/4cH3nHl.



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Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 10

- 9:30 AM [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 10:00 AM [Voter Reform Group – Online](#)
- 10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
- 10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle – Hybrid](#)
- 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](#)

MONDAY, MAY 11

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

TUESDAY, MAY 12

- 6:00 PM [Deportation Defense Training](#)
- 7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
- 7:30 PM [Praying Dangerously – Online](#)
- 7:30 PM [Cancer Support Group – Online](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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

THURSDAY, MAY 14

- 1:00 PM [New Adventures – Online](#)
- 6:00 PM [Screening: Redemption Time](#)
- 6:30 PM [Creative Writing – Online](#)
- 7:00 PM [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

FRIDAY, MAY 15

- 6:30 PM [Screening: Acts of Reparations](#)

SUNDAY, MAY 17

- 9:30 AM [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 10:00 AM [Voter Reform Group – Online](#)
- 10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
- 10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 AM [PA SE: A Space for U – Hybrid](#)
- 10:30 AM [New Members Gathering – Hybrid](#)
- 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](#)
- 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, visit middlechurch.org/events or 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 an Community Center, **Elise Tiralli** - etiralli@middlechurch.org.

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



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Many and Great, O God

Joseph R. Renville, 1842

American Indian Tune

♩ = 130 Unison

1. Ma - ny and great, O God, are Thy things, Mak - er of earth and
 2. Grant un-to us com - mun-ion with Thee, Thou star a - bid - ing

sky; Thy hands have set the heav - ens with stars; Thy fin - gers
 One; Come un - to us and dwell with us; With Thee are

spread the mount - ains and plains. Lo, at Thy Word the
 found the gifts of life, Bless us with life that

wa - ters were formed; Deep seas o - bey Thy voice.
 has no end, E - tern-al life with Thee.

Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

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Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come

*Saranam, saranam**Refrain*

Je - sus, Sav - ior, Lord, now to you I come. *Sa - ra -*
You're my rock, my ref - uge, my heaven - ly home. *Sa - ra -*

Fine

nam, sa-ra-nam, sa-ra - nam. 1 From the earth wher-ev-er I may be,
2 In your heart give me a hid-ing place,
3 Then with joy to you my vows I'll pay,

out of des - per - a - tion and through ag - o - ny, I cry in
and be - neath your wings let me find shel-tering grace; O let me
and give thanks for all your mer - cy ev - ery day. I'll hum - bly

to Refrain

help-less-ness: O an - swer me. *Sa-ra - nam, sa-ra-nam, sa-ra - nam.*
see the sun-shine of your face. *Sa-ra - nam, sa-ra-nam, sa-ra - nam.*
fol - low in your per - fect way. *Sa-ra - nam, sa-ra-nam, sa-ra - nam.*

Claimed by both Pakistanis and Indians, this is one of the most popular South Asian hymns. The text represents a Christian adaptation of Psalm 61, and the psalm's theme is reinforced by the mantra-like repetition of the word "saranam," meaning "I take refuge" or "surrender."

TEXT: D. T. Niles, 1963, rev.
MUSIC: Punjabi melody; arr. Geoff Weaver, 1995

SARANAM
CCLI # 1543869

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