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middle church

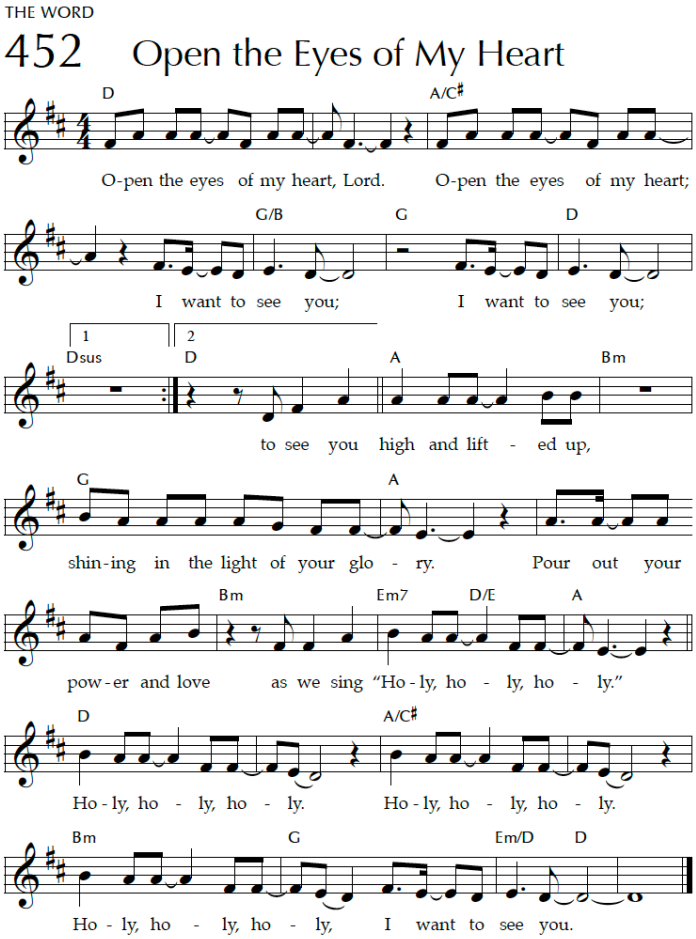
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

AUGUST 2, 2026 • 11:45 AM • ONLINE WORSHIP

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN



The initial petition of this song is based on the language of Ephesians 1:18, while the second part draws on the account of Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:1–5. That event, in turn, is the basis of the threefold *Sanctus* that has become a traditional element in Christian worship.

TEXT and MUSIC: Paul Baloche, 1997 OPEN THE EYES
Text and Music © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com) Irregular

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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 Elise Tiralli

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM Give Me A Clean Heart (Margaret Douroux)
Tanisha Anderson

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27: 11-23 Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the
Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,
he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they
make against you?" 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the
governor was greatly amazed.

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone
whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. 17 So
after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you,
Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he realized that it was out of
jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife
sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great
deal because of a dream about him." 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the
crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them,
"Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said
to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let
him be crucified!" 23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the
more, "Let him be crucified!"

SERMON Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

COMMUNION

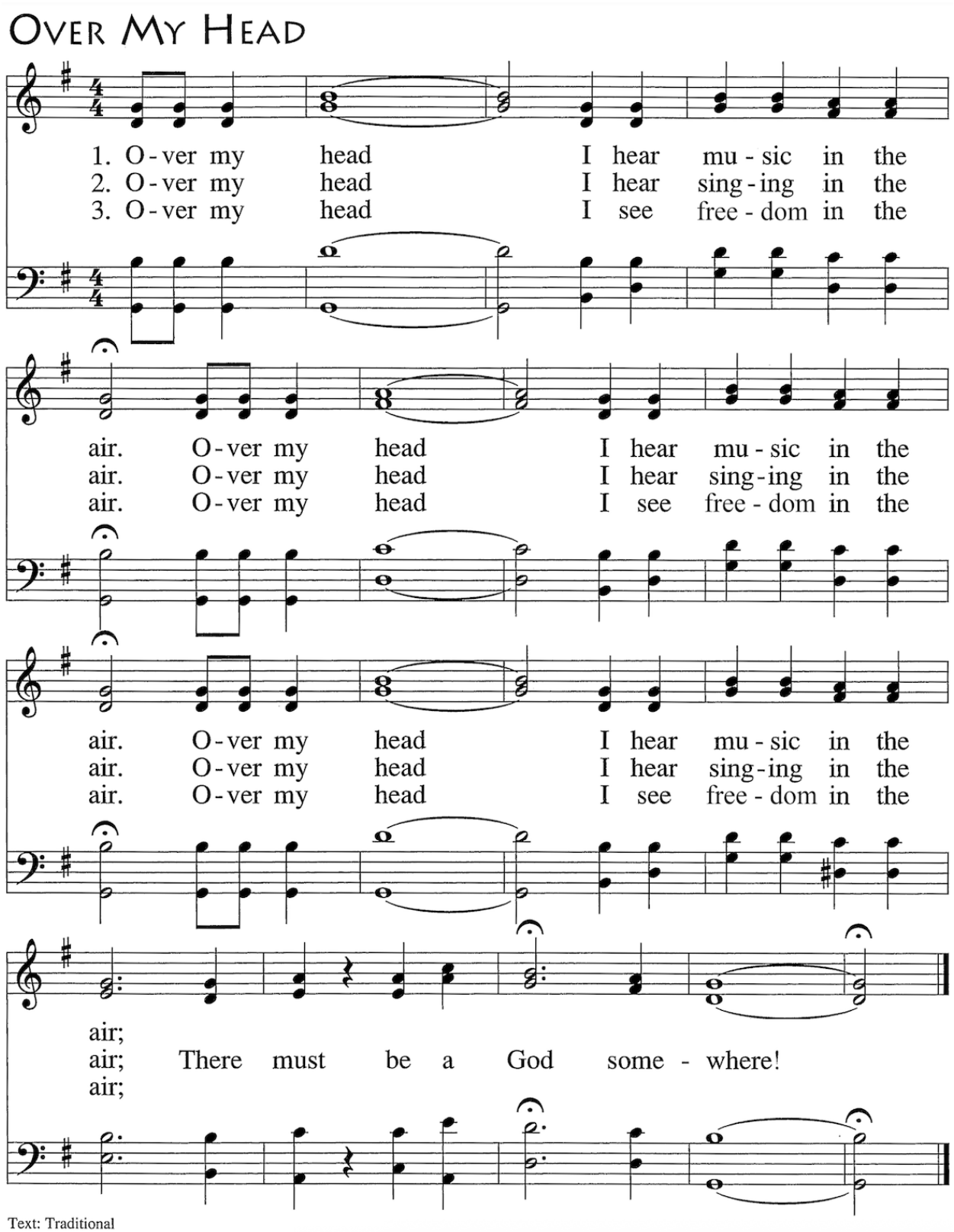
POWER THIS MOVEMENT Sandra Santana

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

OFFERTORY Faithful (Wayne Robinson)
Nöel Wippler and ensemble

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleChurch

HYMN



Text: Traditional
Tune: OVER MY HEAD, 11 11 11 7; traditional; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto
Musicians in Worship • Tanisha Anderson, Nöel Wippler, ensemble

July 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, Donna and Elizabeth Johnson, Eddie Russo, Gene Smith, Patrice Stone, Sandy Hardwick-Pettis, Tina Cernero's sister Renee, the family of Nolan Wells, the family of Ralph Robertson, Hirity Tedla Afley, Walterine & Karl Slazer, Pastor Sandra Slazer, Laci Beckett, Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Claudia Slazik, Steve, Briana, Cody, Luke and Faye, for all of those whom Melvin Cunningham holds in his heart, 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.

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

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.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister, Public Theology and Partnerships
Rev. Macky Alston, 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 7th Street New York NY 10003	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/
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	

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/4cH3nHI.

Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, August 2
10:00 AM Voter Reform Group – Online
10:00 AM Bible in the Middle – Online only
11:45 AM Worship Celebration at the Beach!
12:45 PM Chat & Chew – Online only

MONDAY, AUGUST 3
6:30 PM Acting Class – Hybrid

TUESDAY, August 4
6:00 PM Encountering the Enneagram
7:00 PM East Village Group – AA
8:30 PM East Village Group – AA

WEDNESDAY, August 5
8:00 AM Pray to Rise – Online
6:00 PM Sound Healing Sanctuary
7:00 PM Ukuleliacs

THURSDAY, August 6
6:30 PM Creative Writing – Online

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
9:30 AM Butterfly Outreach Ministry
10:00 AM Bible in the Middle – Hybrid
10:00 AM Just Love Family Programming
11:45 AM Worship Celebration
12:45 PM Chat & Chew – Hybrid
1:00 PM Community Social Hour
2:00 PM Middle Players & Writers: Memories Fade

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 and 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: