

JUST LOVE LIBERATES

middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

JULY 5, 2026 • 11:45 AM • **LIBERATION SUNDAY**

• **GATHERING** •

INTROIT	Make Them Hear You	Miguel Angel Vasquez
POEM	Ode to New York	Richard Tschudy
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
HYMN	Anthem for Freedom	(Lyrics by Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis)

Oh say can't you see
What is plain to behold
'Though we should "Liberty!"
There are too many in chains?
We are shackled by grief
And the fear we are small
But this truth must be told
There is one God who loves all
Won't you give me your hand
And together we'll stand
With radical love
Heal our souls and our land.
Oh, say can't we end all this fighting and strife
And walk toward the light
That we all might be free!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Monique Fortuné
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,

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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.

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

Let the River Run

(Carly Simon)

Tina Cernero

SCRIPTURE

Revelations 22.1-5

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and their servants will worship them. ⁴ they will see God's face, and God's name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

SERMON

For the Healing of the Nations

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
Rev. Macky Alston
Monique Fortuné

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

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

OFFERTORY

Waters of March

(Aguas de Marco) A. Jobim

Nöel Wippler

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

DOXOLOGY

(Black Doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins



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For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998

MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006

Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

11.10.11.10 with refrain

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Musicians in Worship • Graeme Gengras (piano), Booker King (bass)

June 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.

<i>Please pray with us this week for these people:</i>
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Allan Dabrio Marrero & Matthew, Donna and Elizabeth Johnson, Eddie Russo, Sandy and Shirley and Steve, Patrick Mulcahy, Gene Smith, Kathe Lovegren, Carol Geu, Leslie Hahne, Julia Bartholomew-King, La'Shawna Munroe, Mary Lou Driscoll, Sofi Brazzeal, Dale Dorlin, Irshad Manji, Gloria Tate, Kai Rikli, Michelle Herrera Mulligan, GeeCee Coleman, Zoraida Ramirez, 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](https://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
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 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, July 5

9:30 AM [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
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](#)
1:00 PM [Is America Possible? After Church Story](#)
[Time with Lucas Johnson](#)

MONDAY, JULY 6

6:30 PM [Acting Class – Hybrid](#)

TUESDAY, JULY 7

7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
6:00 PM [Sound Healing Sanctuary](#)
7:30 PM [Queer Black Men – Online](#)

THURSDAY, JULY 9

1:00 PM [New Adventures – Online](#)
6:30 PM [Creative Writing – Online](#)

SUNDAY, JULY 12

9:30 AM [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle](#)
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 [Congregational Conversation & Picnic](#)

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:



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