

JUST LOVE LIBERATES

middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

JULY 26, 2026 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

(Eleanor Farjeon, Carlton R. Young)

Morning Has Broken

Unison



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

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BUNESSAN
55.54 D

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Elise Tiralli

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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.**

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

What A Wonderful World

(Bob Thiele, George David Weiss)
Charles Brown

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:26-39

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ[†] who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."



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³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON

No matter what...God. Periodt.

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Rev. Macky Alston

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

OFFERTORY

Lovely Day

(Kirk Franklin)

Ensemble

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

Rev. Macky Alston

HYMN

Here Comes the Sun

(George Harrison)

Chorus:

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo

Here comes the sun

And I say, "It's all right"

V1

Little darlin'

It's been a long, cold, lonely winter

Little darlin'

It feels like years since it's been here (chorus)

V2

Little darlin'

The smile's returning to the faces

Little darlin'

It seems like years since it's been here (chorus)

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

V3

Little darlin'

I feel that ice is slowly melting

Little darlin'

It seems like years since it's been clear (chorus)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Musicians in Worship • Asher Denburg (piano), Carmi Harris (singer), Tanisha Anderson (singer), Shari Gill (singer)

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.**

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, Hirty Tedla Afley, Walterine & Karl Slazer, Pastor Sandra Slazer, Laci Beckett, Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, 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://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
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 26

- 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](#)
- 12:45 PM [Chat & Chew – Hybrid](#)
- 1:00 PM [Community Social Hour](#)
- 1:00 PM [Butterfly Distribution](#)

MONDAY, JULY 27

- 6:30 PM [Acting Class – Hybrid](#)

TUESDAY, JULY 28

- 6:00 PM [Creative Writing: Salmagundi Club](#)
- 6:00 PM [Encountering the Enneagram](#)
- 7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
- 6:00 PM [Sound Healing Sanctuary](#)

THURSDAY, JULY 30

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- 10:00 AM [Voter Reform Group – Online](#)
- 10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle – Online](#)
- 11:45 AM [Worship Celebration at the Beach!](#)**
- 12:45 PM [Chat & Chew – Online](#)

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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