

JUST LOVE LIBERATES

middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

AUGUST 16, 2026 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monique Fortuné

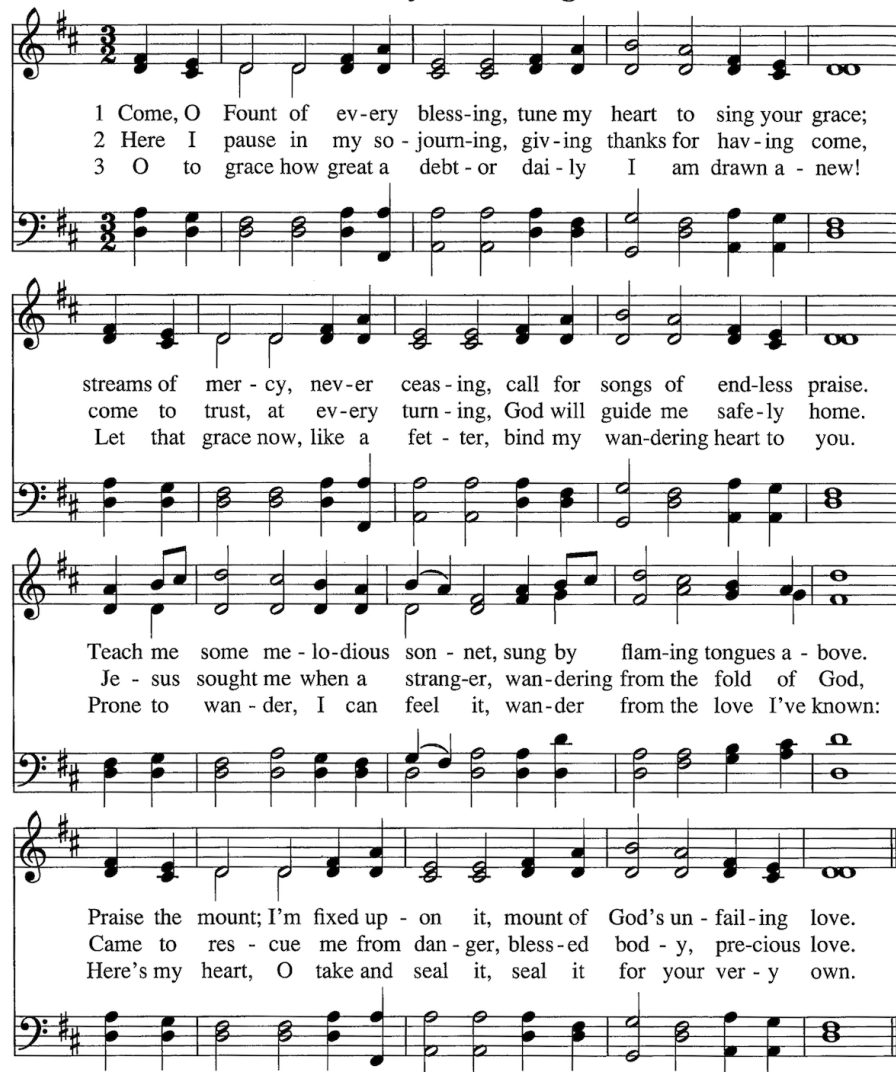
HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

(Robert Robinson)

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

The New Century Hymnal Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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

Nick Laparra

LORD'S PRAYER

Nick Laparra

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

Nick Laparra

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

• REFLECTING •**ANTHEM**

Plenty Good Room

(Lynda Randle)
 Tanisha Anderson

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 67

Monique Fortuné

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
 and make God's face to shine upon us, *Selah*
- ² that your way may be known upon earth,
 your saving power among all nations.
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
 let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
 for you judge the peoples with equity
 and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
 let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase;
 God, our God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God continue to bless us;
 let all the ends of the earth revere God.

SERMON

Joy Uninterrupted

Monique Fortuné



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

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Emelda DeCoteau

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

OFFERTORY

O Rest in the Lord

(Felix Medelssohn)

Tanisha Anderson

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

Emelda DeCoteau

HYMN

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

(Trad.)

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'round

(Traditional)

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round,
Turn me round, turn me round,
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round,
I just keep on a-walkin', keep on a-talkin',
Marching on to freedom land.

Ain't gonna let racism turn me 'round,
Turn me round, turn me round,
Ain't gonna let racism turn me round,
I just keep on a-walkin', keep on a-talkin',
Marching on to freedom land.

Ain't gonna let injustice turn me 'round,
Turn me round, turn me round,
Ain't gonna let injustice turn me round,
I just keep on a-walkin', keep on a-talkin',
Marching on to freedom land.

Ain't gonna let oppression turn me 'round,
Turn me round, turn me round,
Ain't gonna let oppression turn me round,
I just keep on a-walkin', keep on a-talkin',
Marching on to freedom land.

BENEDICTION

Monique Fortuné



PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Musicians in Worship • Dionne McClain-Freeney (piano), Tanisha Anderson (soloist)

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.

<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, 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, the Slazer family, Laci Beckett, Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Claudia Slazik, Steve, Briana, Cody, Luke and Faye, Hannah & Lane Serota, and for all of those whom Melvin Cunningham holds in his heart.

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.



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

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. Visit bit.ly/4cH3nHI. If you have signed up for Happenings, and you aren't receiving it, please check your spam folders.



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Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

7:00 PM [Queer Connections – Online](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

6:30 PM [Creative Writing – Online](#)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

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

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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