JUST LOVE LIBERATES

middle church

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 22, 2026 • 11:45 AM • THANKSGIVING

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Amanda Hambrick

HYMN I've Got Peace Like A River (Trad.)

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul

2) I've got love like an ocean
3) I've got joy like a fountain

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Elise Tiralli

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
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 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,
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.

ANTHEM Being Alive (Stephen Sondheim)
Soloist Carolyn Traore

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

• REFLECTING •

SCRIPTURE Psalm 100 Rev. Macky Alston

[1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
[2] Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.
[3] Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.
[4] Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God; bless God's name.
[5] For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations.

SERMON We Are God's Rev. Macky Alston

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT Jake Stevens

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

OFFERTORY Seasons of Love (Jonathon Larson)
Soloists Natalie Renee Perkins, Riqi Velez
Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleChurch

DOXOLOGY (Trad.)

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.

DEDICATION PRAYER Jake Stevens

HYMN We Shall Not Give Up the Fight (South African Freedom Song)

We shall not give up the fight
We have only started
We have only started
We have only started
We shall not give up the fight
We have only started
We have only started
We have only started

2) We shall not give up on peace
3) We'll put an end to bigotry
4) Together we'll have victory

BENEDICTION Rev. Macky Alston

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto
Musicians in Worship • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Village Chorus for Children & Youth (VCCY)

October 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:

The late Kashimi Asai's family, the late Gene Smith's family, the late Amanda Enck's family, Emil Nørgaard, Shannon Harris, Robin Ford's friend Sharon, Randy Deutsch, Grace Hochheiser & Leonor Calderon, Sandy Hardwick-Pettis and Shirley Pettis, Javier Burgos Badilla, Neice Osha, Cody Concepcion, Alden Deleanides, Joanie HF Zosike, Kat Tenezaca, Katrina Monzon & Sheyla Bultrón Echevarria, Amanda Enck, Donna and Elizabeth Johnson, Eddie Russo, Tina Cernero's sister Renee, Ralph Robertson & family, Laci & Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Claudia Slazik, Steve, Briana, Cody, Luke and Faye, Hannah & Lane Serota, the Slazer family, 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!

Middle Church is a Welcoming, Artistic, Inclusive, and Bold Expression of Just Love. Period.

To learn more about the history of this community, and the ways you can get more deeply connected, 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 SOME OF THE WAYS YOU CAN POWER 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.

It's not too early to purchase a piece of jewelry made from the shards of our Tiffany Stained Glass Windows, rescued from the fire. Please visit bit.ly/4zypzge to get yours today before we sell out.

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

Mail 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 church **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, Stewardship and Congregational Life
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Executive Minister, Hybrid Church
Rev. Amanda Hambrick, Minister for Justice and Intergenerational 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.
WORSHIP	Sundays at 11:45 AM ET online & in-person at: Middle Church 50 East 7th 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	

THE MIDDLE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Middle Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by fierce, revolutionary Love, with room for all. Following in the Way of Jesus' radical love, and inspired by the prophets, Middle Church is called by God to do a bold new thing on the earth. We aim to heal souls and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, ethnocentrist, ableist, cisheterosexist and other systems of oppression.

Because our God is still speaking in many languages, we work in interreligious partnerships to uproot injustice, eradicate poverty, care for the brokenhearted, nurture our planet, and build the Reign of God on earth. This activism is fueled by our faith; our faith is expressed in art; our art is an active prayer connecting us with the Holy Spirit. Middle Church affirms the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Middle Church is part of Collegiate Church, which is the oldest continuous Protestant Church in North America, dating back to 1628. Historically part of the Reformed Church in America, Middle Church is now affiliated with the United Church of Christ. For more information about the UCC please visit ucc.org.

You can sign up for Happenings–the weekly newsletter of the New York Conference Association of the UCC here. bit.ly/4cH3nHl.

Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
9:30 AM Butterfly Outreach Ministry
10:00 AM Bible in the Middle
10:00 AM Voter Reform Group
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 Butterfly Outreach Ministry
1:00 PM Community Social Hour
1:00 PM Freedom Youth Coalition Gathering
1:00 PM Middle OUTLoud: LGBTQIA2S+

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
6:30 PM Acting Class – Hybrid
7:00 PM Queer Theology Series – Online

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
6:00 PM Creative Writing – Salmagundi Club
7:00 PM East Village Group – AA
8:30 PM East Village Group – AA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
8:00 AM Pray to Rise – Online
6:00 PM Sound Healing Sanctuary – Hybrid
7:00 PM Queer Black Men – Online

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
1:00 PM New Adventures – Hybrid
6:30 PM Creative Writing – Online
7:00 PM Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir – Hybrid

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
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 Butterfly Outreach Ministry
1:00 PM Community Social Hour
1:15 PM Village Chorus for Children & Youth
1:30 PM Reign Makers Advent Series:
Wisdom & Money

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: