

JUST LOVE LIBERATES

middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 4, 2026 • 11:45 AM • HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH • WORLD COMMUNION

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy, Holy)

(Traditional Argentinian)

595

Holy, Holy, Holy

Santo, santo, santo



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi

5 heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zón te sa - be decir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Jaqui Lewis

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jaqui Lewis

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. Dr. Jaqui Lewis

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

Solo Le Pido A Dios

(León Gieco)

Soloist Carolyn Traore

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

Dr. Edwin Aponte

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"^[b] ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SERMON

Surprises on the Road

Dr. Edwin Aponte

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT



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

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis
Rev. Macky Alston
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
Rev. Amanda Hambrick

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

John Del Cueto

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

OFFERTORY

Paciencia Y Fe

(Lin-Manuel Miranda)

Soloist Carolyn Traore

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

John Del Cueto

HYMN

Score

The Right Hand of God

Patrick Prescod/Noel Dexter

$\text{♩} = 80$

La ma - no de Dios is wri - ting in our land.
La ma - no de Dios is poin - ting in our land.
La ma - no de Dios is stri - king in our land,
La ma - no de Dios is heal - ing in our land,
La ma - no de Dios is plant - ing in our land,

6
S Wri - ting with po - wer and with love. Our con - flicts and our
Poin - ting the way that we must go. So cloud - ed is the
Striking out at en - vy hate and greed. Our sel - fish - ness and
Healing bro - ken bo - dies, minds and souls. So won - drous is it's
Planting seeds of free - dom, hope and love. In these our sa - cred

11
S fears, our tri - umphs and our tears are re - cor - ded with la ma - no de
way, so ea - si - ly we stray, But we're guid - ed by la ma - no de
lust, our pride and deeds un - just Are de - stroyed by la ma - no de
touch, with love that means so much, When we're healed by la ma - no de
lands, let God's peo - ple all join hands. And be one with la ma - no de

16
S
Dios.
Dios.
Dios.
Dios.
Dios.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Musicians in Worship • Dionne McClain-Freeney (piano)

September 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 memory of JJ's mom, Helen Jones, Donna and Elizabeth Johnson, Eddie Russo, Gene Smith, Sandy Hardwick-Pettis, Tina Cernero's sister Renee, the family of Nolan Wells, the family of Ralph Robertson, the Slazer family, Laci Beckett, Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Claudia Slazik, Steve, Briana, Cody, Luke and Faye, Hannah & Lane Serota, Lisa Rogers, the family of Lynn Harris, Paul & Nancie Carlson, Ryan Chapin and the birth of Laurence, Jennifer and Jamison, Mary Jo Brightley, Michele Rafferty, Billy Wallace and Caylin Capra-Thomas, 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.



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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, OCTOBER 4

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](#)
1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

6:30 PM [Acting Class – Hybrid](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
7:30 PM [Middle Reads: The Black Madonna by Christena Cleveland – Online](#)
8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
6:00 PM [Sound Healing Sanctuary – Hybrid](#)
7:00 PM [Ukuleliacs – Online](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

1:00 PM [New Adventures – Online](#)
6:30 PM [Creative Writing – Online](#)
7:00 PM [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir – Hybrid](#)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

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](#)
1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
1:30 PM [Leadership Lab Reunion](#)

*** New New Yorkers Community Partnership
Dinner – Please see Rev. Amanda for details

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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