



RECLAIM REPAIR REBUILD  
**WORSHIP**  
**CELEBRATION**  
REFRAME

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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SEPTEMBER 01, 2024 3:00 PM JUST LOVE PERIOD

**PRELUDE** *We invite you to use this time for prayer or silent meditation to center yourself and prepare for worship.*

### GATHERING

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Natalie Perkins

**HYMN** ["Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"](#)

(Walter C. Smith)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jillian Langford

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Jillian Langford

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.**

**CONGREGATIONAL AMEN**

(Trad.)

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Jillian Langford

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

## REFLECTING

**ANTHEM** "Ich Folge Dir Fleichfalls" (*I Will Follow You*) (J.S. Bach)  
Giovanna Yang

**SCRIPTURE** Daniel 3:13-20; 24-26, 28 Rev. Natalie Perkins

**SERMON** Let it Be Known Rev. Natalie Perkins

## INVITATION TO REFLECT

**COMMUNION** Rev. Natalie Perkins, Jillian Langford, Macky Alston

## RESPONDING

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT** Leigh McOmber

*If you'd like to join our movement for love and justice, go to [middlechurch.org/join](https://middlechurch.org/join).*

**OFFERTORY** "I Know Things Now" (Stephen Sondheim)  
Caelyn Osbern

*Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch*

**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.

**DEDICATION PRAYER** Macky Alston

**HYMN** "[Over My Head](#)" (Negro Spiritual)

**BENEDICTION** Rev. Natalie Perkins



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## PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

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**Director of Music and Choirs** John Del Cueto

**Middle Church Band** James Rushin (Piano)

**August 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 it back again or share the playlist with a friend to let them see what August was like at Middle Church.



**PRAYER CORNER** *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*  
**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.**

For all those Melvin holds in his heart;

**To make a prayer request**, request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit [middlechurch.org/prayer/](http://middlechurch.org/prayer/).

**Butterfly Outreach Ministry, our food justice ministry, invites you to volunteer on Sundays at 2:00pm!** Please email Patrick at [Ptmulcahy21@gmail.com](mailto:Ptmulcahy21@gmail.com) or Deborah at [Bergamotmusic@gmail.com](mailto:Bergamotmusic@gmail.com) for more info on what to bring and expect.

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# Welcome to Middle Church

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**We are glad you are worshipping with us today.** If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to return often and make Middle Church a home for you, your family, and friends. Sign up for updates or weekly emails at [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org).

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

**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.

**By entering the Sanctuary**, you grant Middle Collegiate 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 Collegiate Church. If you are uncomfortable, you are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary balcony.

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## GIVING AT MIDDLE—

*Dear Middle Family—*

We are called to the Rising—Middle Rising! We are now in the 3RD and FINAL YEAR of PHASE 1 of our rebuilding campaign that takes us through 2025!

Your pledges, recurring contributions and one-time donations to Middle land in our "ONE FUND" to support Middle's operations, staff, programming, and fundraising for our new building. This streamlined giving process helps Middle plan, grow, and rise from the ashes stronger to achieve



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our budget needs and help endow the future of this movement. The fire that destroyed Middle's historic East Village site has not stopped us from putting our Fierce Love out in the world. We are in construction on our 50 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street building as Phase 1 and aim to have us back in that building in early 2025. We still need everyone who calls this their movement to help invest so that we can build it back to its glory for our future. **Please visit [www.middlechurch.org/rising](http://www.middlechurch.org/rising)** to make your Pledge to our Middle Rising campaign (which can be paid through 2025) so that we can plan around your support toward our ongoing operations, programming, and fundraising for our new building. We are the ones we've been waiting for and together, with you onboard, we will have enough!

We're grateful for who you are as part of this community.

Love— *Jacqui, Vickie Burns—Consistory Chair, and the entire Middle Church Consistory*

**To support our ongoing ministry, programs, operations, and rebuilding:**

- Visit [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate)
- Venmo [@MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.venmo.com/@MiddleCollegiateChurch)

**To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:**

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.  
18 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 02-147, New York, NY 10011

**Charitable Giving** may require use of Middle Collegiate Church's EIN: 13-5564117 (aka "Ministers, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York")

**Please reach out to our Stewardship Director, Devon Mosley ([stewardship@middlechurch.org](mailto:stewardship@middlechurch.org)) to discuss any questions about your giving plan.**

**DONATE BY PHONE**

To make a donation to Middle Church, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.



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# Middle Events Calendar

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All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org) for details and the latest updates.

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## SUNDAY, SEPT 1

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- **11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)**
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- **3:00 p.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)**

## MONDAY, SEPT 2

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)

## WEDNESDAY, SEPT 4

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray To Rise](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

## THURSDAY, SEPT 5

- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

## SUNDAY, SEPT 8

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- **11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)**
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- **3:00 p.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Middle Church events, activities, and the latest updates, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.

Please reach out to our Director of Programs and Community Engagements, Elise Tiralli, with any questions regarding programming—[etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org).



**Our ushers ministry isn't complete without you!** We need in-person and digital ushers to help usher in Middle's radical welcome. Learning is easy for this mission-critical volunteer opportunity. For in-person ushering please email Elise at [etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org) to get plugged in; for digital ushering, please email Rev. Natalie at [nperkins@middlechurch.org](mailto:nperkins@middlechurch.org).

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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister  
Macky Alston, M.Div. Executive Minister  
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Executive Minister for Digital Church  
Jillian Langford, M.PhI, Care & Just Love Minister  
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, Justice & Organizing Minister  
And Team Middle

**MAILING** Middle Collegiate Church  
18 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 02-147  
New York, NY 10011

**WORSHIP** Sundays 11:45 AM online & 3:00 PM  
online & in-person at: Judson Memorial  
Church, 55 Washington Square South,  
New York, NY 10012

**E-MAIL** [middleinfo@middlechurch.org](mailto:middleinfo@middlechurch.org)

**WEBSITE** [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org)

Share our message on social media and invite others to like, follow, and connect with us.

[Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)  
[Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)  
[YouTube.com/MiddleNYC](https://YouTube.com/MiddleNYC)  
[Instagram.com/middlechurch](https://Instagram.com/middlechurch)  
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[Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis](https://Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis)

Daniel 3.13-20; 24-26; 28

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. 17 If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let her deliver us. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary 20 and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

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24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." 25 He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

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28 Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent her angel and delivered her servants who trusted in her. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

[Back](#)

### Anthem (translated to English)

I Follow You

(J.S. Bach)

I follow You likewise with joyful steps  
And do not leave You,  
My Life, my Light.  
Bring me on my way  
And do not cease to pull, push  
Urge me on.

[Back](#)



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# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.

The New Century Hymnal Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

**BACK**



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# Over My Head

*African-American traditional*

1 O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.  
 2 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.  
 3 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.  
 4 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.

O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.  
 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.  
 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.  
 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.

O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air,  
 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air,  
 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air,  
 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air,

there must be a God some-where.

Arrangement: Verolga Nix, J. Jefferson Cleveland © 1981 Abingdon Press.  
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Tune: African-American traditional  
Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

**BACK**



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