



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

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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JANUARY 5, 2025 • 3:00 PM • 3 KINGS SUNDAY - EPIPHANY

**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 Renee Perkins

**HYMN**      “Alpha and Omega”

(Erasmus Mutambira)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**      “Draw Me Close / Just to Be Close To You”

(Kelly Carpenter/Noel Hall)

**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.)

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

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jillian Langford

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

## REFLECTING

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 2.1-12

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**SERMON** Wisdom in the Wilderness

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

**COMMUNION**

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Macky Alston, Jillian Langford

## RESPONDING

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Macky Alston

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

**OFFERTORY** "Something New"

(Ivan Anderson)

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



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**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** "Never Be Defeated"

(Rich Tolbert Jr)

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

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**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION**

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

**Middle Church Band** Graeme Gengras (piano), Booker King (bass), Jonathon Peretz (drums),  
Andrew Jagannath (guitar)

**December 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** *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**, speak to a minister, 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 carpeted area. If hearing is an issue, the best place to sit in the sanctuary is front left.

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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 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

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

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.  
PO Box 1400 New York NY 10003

**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 this code 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, JAN 5

- 11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Hybrid Worship Celebration](#)
- 4:00 p.m.: [Community Social Hour](#)

## TUESDAY, JAN 7

- 6:00 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

## WEDNESDAY, JAN 8

- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)
- 5:30 p.m.: [LES Food Alliance Meeting](#)

## THURSDAY, JAN 9

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)

## SUNDAY, JAN 12

- 11:45 a.m.: [Online Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 3:00 p.m.: [Hybrid Worship Celebration](#)
- 4:00 p.m.: [Community Social Hour](#)
- 4:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

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

**Want to get more involved?** Please reach out to our Director of Programs, Events, and Community Engagement, **Elise Tiralli**, to learn more about programming – [etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org).



**We warmly invite you to join our ushering and hospitality ministries!** Every Sunday, we need ushers to offer radical welcome and volunteers to host our Community Social Hour after worship. If you're interested in serving as an usher or sponsoring snacks for the community, please reach out to our Care Minister, **Jillian Langford** – [jlangford@middlechurch.org](mailto:jlangford@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, MTS ABD, Minister for Care & Congregational Life  
Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, Consulting Minister for Justice & Community Organizing  
And Team Middle

**MAILING** Middle Collegiate Church  
PO Box 1400  
New York NY 10003

**WORSHIP** Sundays at 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)  
[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://Instagram.com/revjacquilewis)  
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## **Alpha and Omega**

You are Alpha and Omega  
We worship you, our Lord  
You are worthy to be praised.

We give you all the glory  
We worship you, our Lord  
You are worthy to be praised.

**BACK**



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## **Never Be Defeated**

I shall rise, I shall be  
I shall go in victory  
No weapon formed against me  
Will ever overtake me

And because God is the greatest power  
We shall never, never be defeated

The devil is a liar  
God is exalted  
Never be defeated  
Never be defeated

**BACK**



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