



MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH
...Here for You

Sunday, April 28, 2024

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

PRELUDE Seven Days of Falling Morten Ravn Hansen, Esbjörn Svensson Trio
We invite you to use this time for prayer or silent meditation to center yourself and prepare for worship.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Dr. Michael Bos

HYMN **What a Covenant** *Showalter*

**What a covenant, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

***Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain.***

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

HYMN **Siyahamba** *South African Traditional*

**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.**

CALL TO PRAYER. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Dr. Hussein Rashid, Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE . . . Adrienne Hurd, Lutin Tanner, The Middle Classical Choir
Lord Make Me an Instrument. Roger Holland

THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos.
Your name is light that always lives within.
Create your reign of unity now. Let your heart's fervent desire
unite heaven and earth through our harmony.
Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.
Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.
Deceived neither by the outer nor the inner, free us to**

Continues on next page.

**walk your path with joy. From you is born all ruling will,
the power and life to do, the song that beautifies all.
Amen.** – Aramaic Prayer, adapted from Neil Douglas-Klotz

CHORAL AMEN

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.

ANTHEM Maybe God Is Trying to Tell You Something William Maxwell,
David Del Sesto, Andraé Crouch, Quincy Jones
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir
Carmi Harris, Melrose Johnson, *soloists*

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE – John 5:2-9 Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON REGARDING THE MATTER OF WHOLENESS Dr. Jacqui Lewis

SPOTLIGHT ON LIFE AT MARBLE Dr. Michael Bos

SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE RISING Dr. Jacqui Lewis

CALL FOR OFFERING
To donate to Marble, please click "GIVE" at MarbleChurch.org or use Donate QR Code on green card in pews, to take you to secure website, Realm, to give. Donation boxes also placed by Sanctuary doors.
Donate to Middle at Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch, scan QR code on page 3, visit middlechurch.org/donate or text "GIVE" to 833-786-0733. Donations in the box labeled "Middle Rebuilding Fund" at back of the Sanctuary go to the rebuilding of Middle Church.
We are grateful for your faithful support.

ANTHEM For Every Mountain Kurt Carr
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, Madge Dietrich, *soloist*

DOXOLOGY *Old Hundredth*
**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 Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN Lift Every Voice and Sing JW Johnson & Rosamond Johnson
**1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**
**2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through
the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**
**3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Though who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wind of the world we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.**

BENEDICTION.....Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Dr. Michael Bos

POSTLUDE We Are the Ones.....Tituss Burgess

ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

The Middle Classical Choir with Gail Gill & Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir
Nöel Wippler, *soprano*; Anne Quintero, *alto*; Melaina Mills, *soprano*
Carol Traore, *alto*; Trèjah Bostic, *soloist*; Mark Rehnstrom, *bass*
Madge Dietrich, *soprano*; Shari Gill, *alto*; Carmi Harris, *soprano*
Branch Woodman, *tenor*; Ai Ra, *tenor*; Melrose Johnson, *soprano*
Dionne McClain-Freene, piano; Jonathon Peretz, *drums*
Booker King, *bass*; Hajime Yoshida, *guitar*



AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

FREEDOM RISING: YOU. MOVE. THE WORLD.

Today marks the last day of the 18th annual Freedom Rising Conference. Come together with fellow warriors, revolutionaries, advocates, and changemakers to reclaim our bodies through resilience, forge powerful connections, and boldly shape the world we all deserve.

For more information and to purchase a ticket for the remainder of the day, please visit the registration desk in the 5th Ave Narthex.



Use this QR code to donate to Middle to help fund their movement of love and justice. Your One Fund donation fuels our operating budget and the rebuilding of our physical site, which we hope to occupy by January 2025.



Purchase *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy*, the new book by Rev. Jim Wallis, who is our special guest on Sunday, May 19; see page 5. BOOKS AVAILABLE TODAY at 29th St Reception Desk, at marblegiftshop.com, plus at Coffee Hour Sundays, May 5, 12 & 19. You are encouraged to purchase books in advance, then remember to bring with you to be signed by Jim following Worship on May 19. Learn more at MarbleChurch.org/calendar.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

If you can't join us live, view anytime at MarbleChurch.org/Watch



Sunday, May 5 – 11:00am
You Are Enough – Rev. Susanah Wade

Sunday, May 12 – 11:00am
Living Life Backwards
Begin with the End – Dr. Michael Bos
Part 1 of Sermon Series

May 12 Worship celebrates our solidarity with the Asian/Pacific Islander Community with AAPI Marble members participating. After Worship, we welcome our neighbors from across 5th Ave, YXT Health-Herbal Store, as they provide a **Special Tea Tasting** for us.



NYC Street Closings: Please note, Sunday, May 5, is the Five Boro Bike Tour. Please plan ahead for your time at Marble. For details, visit www.nyc.gov/events/index or call 311.

Life at Marble

Visit MarbleChurch.org for more events, details, and up-to-date information.

CYF CORNER – CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES MINISTRY



Sunday School, Youth Group & Childcare – Infant/Toddler childcare: 10:00am-12:30pm, (when possible, for staffing purposes, please contact Brian a week in advance). Pre-K – 6th Grade: Early Drop-Off, 10:00am; Classes, 11:00am. 7th-12th Grade attend 11:00am Worship. Youth Group returns next Sunday, May 5. **All children and youth welcome to join us any time!** Register at MarbleChurch.org/cyf or contact CYF Director Brian Hampton, BHampton@MarbleChurch.org.



JOIN US!

Are you searching for a place to belong, to connect with others, and to grow in your faith? We welcome you for who you are, wherever you are on your faith journey. We'd love to have you join us! To learn more, contact Kim Sebastian-Ryan, KRyan@MarbleChurch.org, talk to someone wearing a red carnation or visit MarbleChurch.org/become-a-member.

ENGAGE



Behold! I Make All Things New! Art Exhibit / thru April 30 – Marble artists celebrate Eastertide, hope, renewal, and transformation. View downstairs outside the Labyrinth Room and at MarbleChurch.org/arts.

Arts Ministry / Most Mondays, 6:30pm – Join us on Zoom for a time of fellowship and nurturing as we discover how to use our God-given gifts, talents, and skills. For professional and non-professional artists. Visit MarbleChurch.org/arts.

Afternoon Prayer / Tuesdays, 4:00-4:20pm – Wind down your day with a brief time of sharing and prayer via Zoom or phone. Link available at MarbleChurch.org/calendar.

Chair Yoga / Thursdays, 10:00-10:45am – Center yourself physically and spiritually with this time of gentle movement via Zoom. Link available at MarbleChurch.org/calendar.

Small Group: A Guide to Confident Living / Continues Thursdays, thru May 16, 12:30-1:30pm – Join Dr. Elise Brown on Zoom for this discussion of another of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's bestsellers. Register at MarbleChurch.org.

Prayer Circle / Returns Sunday, May 5, 10:00am – Weekly time of prayer and music. The Circle is always open – all you need is a willing heart! Children's Chapel (2nd floor, access via elevator/stairs off 29th St lobby) & Zoom.

Online Tea Time with Kim / Wednesday, May 15, 1:00pm – We gather on Zoom for a chance to connect and deepen relationships. This month we take a **virtual visit to Oman with special guest Dr. Michael Bos who shares about his time living there**. Register online by May 14.

Women's Retreat: Navigating the Waters of Change / Weekend, May 31-June 2 – Join our keynote speaker Dr. Julie Faith Parker, plus Nina H. Frost, Rev. Kirsty DePree, Rev. Susanah Wade, Dr. Elise Brown, musician Ana Hernández, and members of the Marble Women's Leadership Team. At Wisdom House in Connecticut. Register now at MarbleChurch.org.

PrimeTime Outing / Friday, June 21 – We return to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA to see their production of *Daniel*. Register soon at MarbleChurch.org. Before the show, get some valuable insight through Dr. Julie Faith Parker's Small Group on the book of Daniel, June 4, 11 & 18. Open to all.

HELP OTHERS



Prayer Shawl Ministry / First Mondays on Zoom, 5:00-6:00pm; third Mondays in person, 1:00-2:00pm – Gather for prayer and creating together to knit/crochet prayer shawls for the ill or homebound. Questions? Contact Judy Tulin, JTulin@MarbleChurch.org.

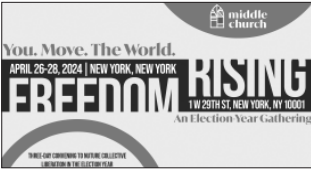
Marble Fights Hunger – We encourage you to bring canned/bottled food whenever you come to Marble. Donations benefit various organizations including Icahn House.



Give to Marble's 2024 Easter Offering through April. 100% of donations are given as grants to help organizations working diligently to support populations experiencing hunger, homelessness, inequitable and inadequate education, mental and physical health challenges, and various forms of injustice.

Give online at MarbleChurch.org/easter-offering or click on the blue Easter Offering button below the streaming window at MarbleChurch.org; **Text GIVEMCC Easter24 and any amount to 73256** (standard messaging rates apply); **By check, payable to Marble**, memo: Easter Offering.

Spotlight



WE WELCOME MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH'S FREEDOM RISING CONFERENCE TO MARBLE. Thank you all for joining us for our special Worship today!



MUSIC AT MIDDAY

Wednesdays, May 1 & June 5, 12:00-12:30pm

Give yourself a midday break to enjoy the incredible sounds of the Marble pipe organ. Free admission.

May 1 – Janet Yieh, *Director of Music at Church of the Heavenly Rest, NYC*

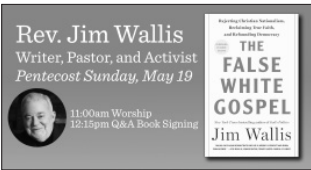
June 5 – David Hirst, *Mantes la Jolie, France, Titular Organist of Notre Dame de Mantas*



WALK THE LABYRINTH

Wednesdays, May 1 & 15, 5:00-6:30pm

Feed your spirit with this walking meditation. Labyrinth Facilitators available to help guide you and answer questions, while allowing you the space to walk in your own way, at your own pace. Learn more about the Labyrinth at MarbleChurch.org/labyrinth.



THE FALSE WHITE GOSPEL WITH REV. JIM WALLIS

Sunday, May 19

Worship, 11:00am

Q&A and Book Signing, 12:15pm

We welcome Rev. Jim Wallis to Marble for a presentation of his newest book, *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Re-founding Democracy*.

Rev. Wallis says it's time to call out genuine faith specifically the "Christian" in White Christian Nationalism inviting all who can be persuaded to reject and help dismantle a false gospel that propagates white supremacy and autocracy. We need to raise up the faith of all of us and help those who are oblivious, stuck, and captive to an ideology that is leading us to such great danger.

This book isn't only for Christians but for all faith traditions, and even those with no faith at all. When we see a civic promotion of fear, hate, and violence for the trajectory of our politics, we need a civic faith of love, healing, and hope to defeat it. And that must involve all of us – religious or not. Learning to practice a politics of neighbor love will be central to the future of democracy in America.

You are encouraged to purchase the book prior to May 19, available today at the 29th St Reception Desk and at marblegiftshop.com.



PRIDE MONTH – A CELEBRATION FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

Our GIFTS Ministry that supports LGBTQ+ persons, their families and allies leads Marble's annual Pride celebration, including our breakfast on Sunday, June 30 and water table on 5th Ave. Once again sections of the AIDS Quilt from the National AIDS Memorial in San Francisco hang in the Sanctuary throughout June. Stay tuned to MarbleChurch.org.



REV. JOHN PAVLOVITZ

Sunday, June 16

10:00 O'Clock Hour; 11:00am Worship

Rev. John Pavlovitz returns during Pride Month to lead the 10:00 O'Clock Hour and preach at 11:00am Worship. He shares his most recent projects and the ongoing work he is doing to further the full inclusion of all people in the body of Christ and as a reflection of the Gospel of Jesus. johnpavlovitz.com/about/



**MARBLE
COLLEGIATE
CHURCH**
...Here for You

1 West 29th Street
New York, NY 10001-4596
212 686 2770
MarbleChurch.org

Worship: Sundays, 11:00am

Keep the conversation going – visit Marble on Social Media



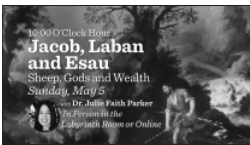
For staff list and email addresses, please visit MarbleChurch.org/staff



PLANT POSITIVE FELLOWSHIP
Monday, April 29, 5:30-6:30pm

All are invited to join our Plant Positive Fellowship monthly Zoom gathering to encourage and inform one another about how eating a plant-powered, whole foods diet benefits our bodies, as well as our beautiful planet. Newcomers always welcome! For more info and to get the link, please contact Robert DiCuio, marbleplantpositive@gmail.com.

10:00 O’CLOCK HOUR – Returns May 5 in the Labyrinth Room (*downstairs*) or online.



Sunday, May 5
**JACOB, LABAN, AND ESAU:
SHEEP, GODS, AND WEALTH**

Dr. Julie Faith Parker, Marble’s Biblical Scholar in Residence, continues her series, ***Scriptural Revelations: Surprising Insights on Familiar Bible Stories***, as we focus on the Ancestor Stories. Learn more at MarbleChurch.org.

If you think people in the Bible are constantly focused on spiritual matters, these stories show otherwise! Stories of Jacob, Laban, and Esau reveal the tensions that can arise among family members when wealth is uneven or up for grabs. Learn about one way in which biblical families are a lot like ours.



Sunday, May 12
THE MOTHERHOOD AND MOBILITY OF JARENA LEE
Black Woman Itinerant Preacher in the 19th Century

Dr. Nathan Jérémie-Brink, L. Russell Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, explores the spaces where Jarena Lee

traveled in her itinerant ministry, across legal and cultural borders of enslavement and liberation, and via ecumenical community efforts that redefined denominational allegiance and women in ministry. Examining Lee’s mobility and ministry reveals her understanding of motherhood and invites our own reconsideration of life in the family of faith.



Movies that Matter
THE SHADOW EFFECT DOCUMENTARY
by the late Debbie Ford
Sunday, May 5, after Worship

Join us in the Chapel to watch and discuss this emotionally-gripping, visually-compelling film that reveals why suppressed emotions and unresolved internal conflicts lead to behavior that continually

unseats politicians, destroys celebrity careers, destabilizes the economy and affects the lives of millions. Hear remarkable stories of individuals who have transcended child abuse, racism, the Holocaust, war, and more. Free.

IF YOU NEED HELP – PLEASE REACH OUT

Marble’s Stephen Ministers may be able to help you with spiritual/emotional support in difficult times. For more information, contact Rev. Susanah Wade, SWade@MarbleChurch.org or visit MarbleChurch.org/stephen-ministry.

The Marble Prayer Ministry Team is here to pray for you. Submit requests on top of any page at MarbleChurch.org.

Blanton-Peale Counseling Center – 212-725-7850, blantonpeale.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 988, call or text, available 24 hours

Use of photographic and recording devices is not permitted during the service. Assistive Listening System, Large print and Braille copies of bulletin available—ask an usher. The south central pews of our Sanctuary are equipped with an Induction Hearing Loop. If your hearing aid has a T-coil, please toggle to that setting to receive our audio signal directly without any headset needed.

By entering the Sanctuary, you grant Marble 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.



middle church

JUST LOVE

WHO WE ARE

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.

WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF
LOVE.
PERIOD.



FREEDOM RISING 2025

GET YOUR TICKET NOW!
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL ENDING 5/15