

# Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Third Sunday of Advent  
December 16, 2018 • 9 & 11:15am



921 Madison Avenue • [mapc.com](http://mapc.com) • 212.288.8920

# Welcome to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member . . .

Whether you are new to or uncertain about this whole idea of church . . .

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Jewish or agnostic . . .

Whether you came with a friend or just wandered in accidentally . . .

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged . . .

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here and you have made us better by being present with us. In the midst of a big and busy city, we are a church that takes seriously Jesus' instructions to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives.

After worship, we gather in our Church House for fellowship, coffee, and cookies. Please join us. We think you'll find us to be a friendly and approachable group of people trying our best to live like Jesus teaches. But if you're looking for a perfect church, we're not it. We don't always get it right. Rather, we're a group of imperfect people who understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never lets go, is for everyone. Including you.

There is a place for you here. We're delighted you've joined us today.



Rev. Jenny McDevitt  
Senior Pastor

## Children Are Always Welcome

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Your children are always welcome here at MAPC, and they are welcome to stay with you in worship. Little ones can't help but make a bit of noise from time to time. If it is your preference, however, children three and under may be taken to the Nursery on the 4th floor. The Narthex and the Children's Library are also available. Speakers provide audio of the service.

## Membership and More Information

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For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, we periodically host a "Tell Me More About MAPC" conversation. The next gathering will be held Jan. 12, 2019, at 9 am in the Phillips Lounge. RSVPs are helpful to Lissette Perez-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

# Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

*We come seeking joy, O God, so fill our hearts with your gladness. Silence in us anything that attempts to tell us a lie: that we are not enough or that your promises are not true. Remind us, always, that we belong to you and you are making all things right, even now.*

## Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

*J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)*

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

We await the birth of Christ,

**the one who reveals God to us.**

He comes to us as sparkling light, twinkling with joy and playfulness.

**He comes to us as softened light, creating a healing space in the shadows.**

He comes to us as a focused spotlight, bringing truth and justice into stark relief.

**He comes to us as morning light, brightening the ordinary world around us.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**He is coming to shine among us.**

Hymn

A Candle is Burning

*Cradle Song*

A can-dle is burn-ing, a can-dle of JOY, A can-dle to  
wel-come brave Ma-ry's new boy. Our hearts fill with won-der and  
eyes light and glow As joy bright-ens win-ter like sun-shine on snow.

Text: © 1986 Sandra Dean, *used and reprinted with permission*  
Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Vic, Kalpana, Rehka, and Leela David (9 am)  
Kevin Barba and Joshua Hill (11:15 am)

\*Hymn 14

Savior of the Nations, Come

*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

*\* Please stand in body or in spirit. For hymns, stand when the choir stands.*

**Incarnate God,**

**We sing of a silent night,**

**but we long to hear your voice.**

**We sing of joy to the world,**

**but we are all too familiar with sorrow.**

**We sing O come all ye faithful,**

**but our own faith is often lacking.**

**Draw near to us, O child of Bethlehem.**

**Come into our broken places with your light and your life. (Silent Prayer)**

Lord, Have Mercy (from *Deutsche Messe*)

*Franz Schubert*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.  
 Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Assurance of God's Grace

... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*Response of Praise

*Antioch*

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
 Nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as, far as the curse is found.**

Text: Isaac Watts (1719), paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9  
 Music: G. F. Handel (1742), arr. Lowell Mason (1836)

\*Summary of God's Law

\*Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

O Antiphon 5

John Weaver  
(b. 1937)

O Morning Star, Splendor of eternal Light, Sun of justice:  
come, shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

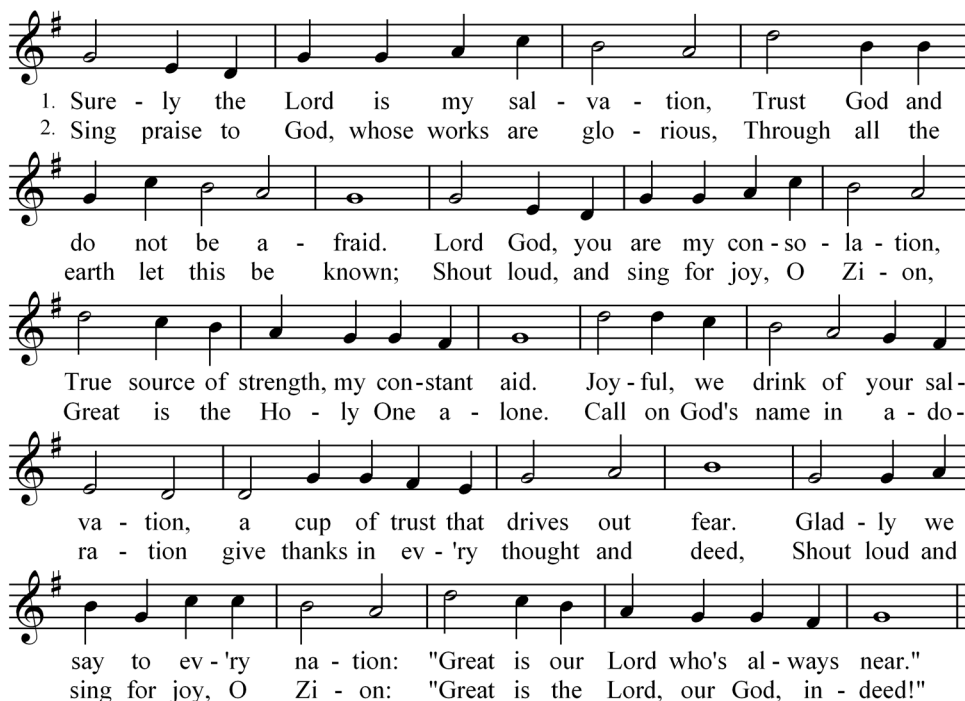
Old Testament Lesson

Christina A. Cosby  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
(OT page 826)

\*Canticle

First Song of Isaiah

*Rendez à Dieu*



1. Sure - ly the Lord is my sal - va - tion, Trust God and  
2. Sing praise to God, whose works are glo - rious, Through all the  
do not be a - fraid. Lord God, you are my con - so - la - tion,  
earth let this be known; Shout loud, and sing for joy, O Zi - on,  
True source of strength, my con - stant aid. Joy - ful, we drink of your sal -  
Great is the Ho - ly One a - lone. Call on God's name in a - do -  
va - tion, a cup of trust that drives out fear. Glad - ly we  
ra - tion give thanks in ev - 'ry thought and deed, Shout loud and  
say to ev - 'ry na - tion: "Great is our Lord who's al - ways near."  
sing for joy, O Zi - on: "Great is the Lord, our God, in - deed!"

Text: Fred R. Anderson, © 2006, *all rights reserved*, based on Isaiah 12:2-6  
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Lesson with the Children and Youth

*Children's Worship: Preschool through 3rd grades are dismissed to the Phillips Lounge.  
Youth Worship: 4th through 8th grades are dismissed to the Dana Chapel.  
They will return during the Doxology to participate in the rest of the service.*

Gospel Lesson

Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman

Luke 3:7-18

(NT page 56)

Gradual

O Antiphon 6

*Weaver*

O Ruler of the nations, monarch the peoples long for,  
you are a cornerstone uniting all humanity:  
come, save us all whom you formed out of clay.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

(NT page 187)

Sermon

Let There Be Joy

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

————— Responding to God's Word —————

\*Hymn 10 (11:15 am)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Winchester New*

\*Affirmation of Faith

An Advent Affirmation

**We believe that God has come to us:**

**that God brought us into being,  
that God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us:**

**that God is not willing to leave us alone,  
that God is coming to us as a particular human being,  
that God is committed to flesh and bone just like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born to us, making our salvation complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us:**

**that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples to all the ends of the earth,  
that the day is coming when crying and sorrow and suffering will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless "Alleluia!"**

—Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

...*Lord in your mercy*, **hear our prayer.**

## Presenting Our Offerings to God

Offertory Anthem (11:15 am)

Rejoice in the Lord Always

*Henry Purcell*  
(1659-1695)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!  
Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God which passeth all understanding  
will keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

—*Philippians 4:4, 6, 7*

Helen Karloski, alto; Tommy Wazelle, tenor; Blake Burroughs, bass

## \*Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures  
here be - low; Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... who forever sing to the glory of your holy name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

### Acclamation

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### Words of Institution

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Let us keep the feast.**



## Sharing the Bread and Cup

*The bread you are served is gluten free.*

*The bronzed chalices contain wine; you are invited to take a sip or dip your bread into the cup.*

*The glass chalices contain juice; you are invited to dip your bread into the cup.*

Anthem (11:15 am)

O Thou That Tellest (from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

(1685-1759)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain;

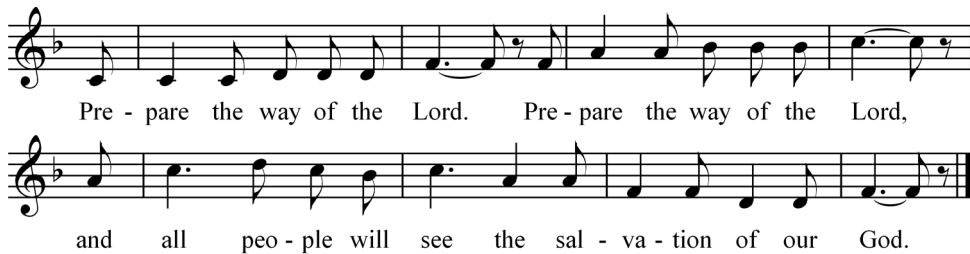
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;  
lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine;  
for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

—*Isaiah 6:9, 40:1*

Helen Karloski, alto

## Congregational Song



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,  
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

Text: Taizé Community / Music: Jacques Berthier; © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## Prayer at the Conclusion of the Meal

\*Hymn 6


Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

*Helmsley*

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response

*Weaver*



(Organ) A - men, A - men, A - men.

\*Postlude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

*Bach*

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## Worship Details

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### Cover Art

Today's cover art, "Testify to the Light," is by Jan Richardson. Richardson is an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. She serves as director of The Wellspring Studio, LLC, and travels widely as a retreat leader and conference speaker. Known for her distinct intertwining of word and image, Jan's work attracts an international audience. She lives in Florida and maintains several online publications. Learn more about her at [www.janrichardson.com](http://www.janrichardson.com).

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## Information and Announcements

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### God With Us: MAPC's Annual Christmas Pageant

Join us in the Parish Hall today at 10:10 am for our annual telling of the Christmas story. This year the children of our church have learned a new version of the story in rhyme in hopes to shed a new light on the first Christmas Night—the day that Jesus came among us. We hope that you will join us for pastries, coffee, and a time to reflect on "God with Us!"

### Carol Sing

Join us today at 4 pm for an afternoon concert of audience carols, reading, poetry, and seasonal choral music (including excerpts for Vivaldi's *Gloria*) sung by the Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and the New York City Children's Chorus, accompanied by guest instrumentalists and conducted by Mary Huff and Andrew Henderson. Admission is free, though a freewill offering will be taken. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

### A Service of the Longest Night: When Christmas Doesn't Feel Very Merry

Sometimes called "Blue Christmas," a Service of the Longest Night acknowledges that for some of us, this season feels like anything but "the most wonderful time of the year." Taking place on one of the longest nights of the year, we will acknowledge sorrow while also clinging to the promise that even though the light feels far, far away, "the darkness does not overcome it" (John 1). This quiet, contemplative service will include song, scripture, prayer, communion, and candle lighting. All are welcome in the Dana Chapel this Tuesday, December 18, at 7 pm. Refreshments will follow in the Phillips Lounge.

### Fireside Jazz in January

Come enjoy an evening of good food, great music and lively fellowship in the Church House Lobby. Chef Jim is preparing a New Orleans inspired menu, the jazz trio is booked, there will be a fire in the fireplace, and childcare will be offered if that makes it easier for you to attend. The suggested donation for the evening is \$40, and we ask for a donation of \$15 per child if you need childcare. You'll be able to sign up in the Church House Lobby after worship on Sundays in January, or you can respond to Lissette Perez-Eraza at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) or by call- ingthechurchoffice. Please indicate if you will need childcare. This is an evening you won't want to miss!

**Thank you** to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2019. We are off to a strong start, but much like ministry itself, we need everyone's participation. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks, in the Narthex, or by calling the church office. You may also pledge or give online at [mapc.com/giving/](http://mapc.com/giving/).

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## Weekly Calendar

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### Monday, December 17

3:00 pm	Andre Newburg Memorial Service	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Andre Newburg Reception	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Long Term Planning Task Force	Room 608

### Tuesday, December 18

4:00 pm	MAPC Book Club	Library
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	The Service of the Longest Night	Dana Chapel
8:00 pm	Fellowship Hour	Phillips Lounge

### Wednesday, December 19

8:00 am	Trustees	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
4:00 pm	Christmas Tableau Rehearsal	Sanctuary, Lobby
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

### Thursday, December 20

12:00 pm	Day School: Christmas Chapel	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing	James Lenox House
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Recovery Group	Library
7:00 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

### Friday, December 21

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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### Saturday, December 22

No Events Scheduled – Church House Closed

# Let There Be Light

Advent and Christmas Worship at MAPC

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December 2: Let There Be *Hope*

December 9: Let There Be *Peace*

**December 16: Let There Be *Joy***

December 18: Let There Be  
7 pm A Service of the Longest Night in the Dana Chapel

December 23: Let There Be *Love*

Christmas Eve: Let There Be *Light*  
5 pm Family Service  
10:30 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day: *Light* Among Us  
10 am Lessons and Carols

## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church is to bring people into the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through worship, teaching the Word, Christian nurture, and ministry in and to the world. As Christ's ministers, our members are striving to build a community of God's love, justice, and mercy, trusting God to lead us into faithfulness.*

## Ministry Team Staff

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt, *Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Associate Pastor*

Christina A. Cosby, *Director of Christian Formation*

Laura Graham, *Director of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School*

The Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman, *Pastoral Resident*

Dr. Andrew E. Henderson, *Director of Music and Organist*

Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music and Director of the NYC Children's Chorus*

Roger S. Pierce, Jr., *Director of Administration and Finance*

Chesna E. Hinkley, *Seminary Intern*

Audrey E. Webber, *Seminary Intern*

The Rev. Dr. Fred R. Anderson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. John B. Weaver, *Director of Music and Organist Emeritus*