



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019 • 10:30 pm



921 Madison Avenue • mapc.com • 212.288.8920

Welcome to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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 . . .

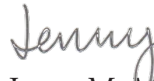
Whether you came with a friend or just wandered in accidentally . . .

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 on Sundays, 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 M. McDevitt
Senior Pastor

Children Are Always Welcome

Your children are always welcome here at MAPC, including worship. To help with that, Children's Worship Bags are located in the Narthex. Red bags are for 2nd graders and above. Blue bags are for 1st graders and below. Please use the bag that best suits your child. Children can't help but make a bit noise from time to time. Your family's presence is a delight, not a distraction. If it is your preference, 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

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 is being planned. Childcare provided with advance request. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

Order of Worship

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring in the valiant and the free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

—Alfred Lord Tennyson

Prelude

Fantasia on
Christmas Carols (1912)

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

*The Truth sent from Above
Come all you Worthy Gentlemen – On Christmas Night
“Together with fragments of other well-known carol tunes”*

Rod Gomez, baritone

Lullaby
(from *Hodie*, 1954)

Ralph Vaughan Williams
arr. Andrew Henderson

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang
When she to Bethlehem Juda came
And was delivered of a son,
That blessed Jesus hath to name.
“Lulla, lulla, lullabye,
Sweet babe” sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

“Sweet babe” sang she, “my son,
And eke a saviour born,
Who hast vouchsafed on high
To visit us that were forlorn:
Lulla, lulla, lullabye,
Sweet babe” sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

Katherine Wessinger, Chloe Holgate & Helen Karloski, soloists

Introit

Torches, Op. 7a (1951)

John Joubert
(1927-2019)

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart’s own darling,
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

—Galician Carol, trans. John Brande Trend (1887-1958)

Procession of the Light of Christ

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

Luke 2:1-20

Timothy D. Johnson

*Hymn 49

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Descant: Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)

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

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman

A Responsive Prayer for Christmas Eve

Mighty God,
Prince of Peace,
Everlasting Father,
Swaddled, crying, hungry baby:

**You came when our need was greatest.
You came not in majesty but in a manger.
You came when it was dark,
not the friendly darkness,
as when sleep rescues the weary,
but the frightening darkness,
as when people lose their hope,
and hearts break into pieces,
and hatred starts to seem reasonable.**

You came when the world was dark,
looking so much like one of us,
and yet calling us to be like you.

**You came as light,
a kind of light we had never seen before,
the kind of light that made us realize,
perhaps for the first time,
just how dark the darkness had become.**

Our eyes had become too adjusted,

**and our steps were heavy and slow.
But on this holy night,
even we who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

**Mighty God,
Prince of Peace,
Everlasting Father,
Swaddled, crying, hungry baby:
born to rescue people who walk in the dark. (Silent prayer)**

Kyrie Eleison

St. Louis

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Assurance of God's Grace

The true light is coming into the world.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*Response of Praise

In Dulci Jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

*Passing the Peace

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

Welcome

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7
(OT page 600)

Anthem

From *Christmas Oratorio*

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.
You shepherds shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child now weak in infancy our confidence and joy shall be;
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

—*Johann Rist (1607-1667)*

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25
(NT page 1)

*Hymn 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:1-16
(NT page 1)

Sermon

The Way of Jesus: Draw Near

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

*Hymn 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn
Descant: Willcocks

*Affirmation of Faith

A Christmas Creed

We believe in Jesus Christ and the beauty of the gospel born this night in Bethlehem.

**We believe in the One whose spirit glorified a little town,
whose spirit still brings light to all of creation.**

**We believe in the One the rulers of the earth ignored
and the proud could never understand;**

**whose life was among common people;
who was most welcome among the least and lowly.**

We believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

**We believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms and
whose bed was a feeding trough;
whose modest home in Nazareth had little wealth but lots of love;
who helped people see themselves as God saw them;
who lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**

We confess our everlasting need of God:

**the need for forgiveness for our selfishness and greed;
the need of new life for weary souls;**

**the need of love for hearts grown cold.
We believe in God who gives us the best of himself.
We believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God,
born this night in Bethlehem, for us and for the whole world. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Presenting Our Offerings to God

Offertory Anthem

How Far Is It to Bethlehem (1990)

*Nicholas White
(b. 1967)*

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little Child? Is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught
Little smiles and little tears are all we have brought
For all weary children, Mary must weep
Here, on His bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

God in His mother's arms, babe in the byre
Sleep, as they sleep who find, their heart's desire.

— *Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)*

Katherine Wessinger, soprano

*Doxology

Cranham

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

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 name:

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.**

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

. . . as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come one and all, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

The Lord's Prayer

. . . the way your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, taught us to pray:

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.

Anthem

Dormi Jesu (1998)

*John Rutter
(b. 1945)*

Dormi, Jesu! Mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu! blandule!
Si non dormis, Mater plorat,
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.

*Sleep, sweet baby! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee, smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly!
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Come, soft slumber, balmily!*

—*Latin (Anonymous); English translation: Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)*

Noël (from *Six Noël's*, Op. 32)
Alexis Colner, *harp*

*Marcel Tournier
(1879-1951)*

Prayer at the Conclusion of the Meal

*Sharing the Light

*Hymn

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

**1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light!
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

**2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!"**

**4. Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.**

*Prayer

*Hymn

Joy to the World

Antioch

Descant: Kent Tritle (b. 1960)

**1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**3. 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.**

**2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

*Benediction

*Please extinguish your candle before leaving your pew.
You may keep your candle or place it in one of the bins at the exits.*

Postlude

Noel Suisse

*Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694-1772)*

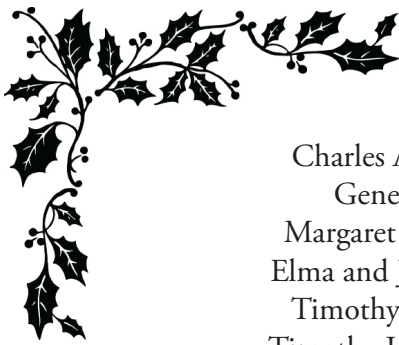
Instrumentalists

Cyrus Beroukhim & Meghan Todt Williams, *violin*; William Hakim, *viola*
Alberto Parrini, *cello*; Pawel Knapik, *bass*; Alexis Colner, *harp*

sacred
ordinary
days

a sermon series on finding the holy in the everyday
beginning January 12

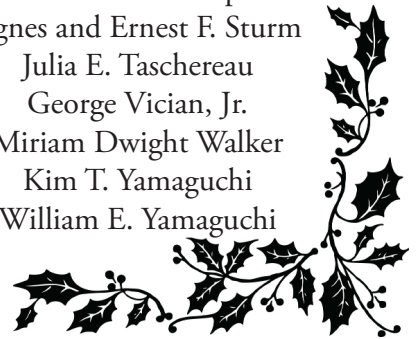
Sunday worship at 9 and 11:15 am / 921 Madison Ave at 73rd Street
mapc.com



The Christmas Decorations are given to the glory of God
by members and friends of the congregation
in loving memory of the following persons:

Charles A. Amstein
Gene Brown
Margaret U. Carlson
Elma and John S. Cole
Timothy J. Connor
Timothy J. Connor, Sr.
Dee Crabtree
Melda and Bertram Danziger
Joseph Nicholas Dietzen III
Florence A. Ehlinger
Faye Ellen Forbis
Dr. Robert Forbis, Jr.
Vera Julia Gordon
Lillian and Gordon Hardy
Catherine and William Hauber
Elizabeth M. Herrold
Kenneth F. Herrold
Anna K. Hoffman
Christine Marie Hudaverdi
Dorothy H. Hupper
Bonnie S. Johnson
Bruce F. Jones
Dorothy B. Jones
Dr. Gerald F. Jones
Minerva E. Jones
Rosemary S. Jones
Dora and Elmer Kleinert
Jay Landesman
Mr. and Mrs. L. Hudson Leathers

Allison MacEachron
Josephine McFadden
Ronald E. Nichols
John Novotny
Patricia S. O'Connell
Matthew G. Pennington
Jane Stellwagen Polk
Florence Ryan Powell
Craig Prince
Rose and George Rabstajnek
Rudolph C. Rabstajnek
The Thomas Rabstajnek Family
The Rev. Dr. David H. C. Read
Patricia Gilbert Read
Marilyn and Thomas Riccardi
Evelyn Roquemore
Gloria Anne Baillie Schmitt
Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton Southworth
Esther M. and Herbert P. Stellwagen
Lillian R. Stump
Agnes and Ernest F. Sturm
Julia E. Taschereau
George Vician, Jr.
Miriam Dwight Walker
Kim T. Yamaguchi
William E. Yamaguchi



You Are Invited

Thank you for spending Christmas Eve with us here at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. It is our great joy to celebrate with you. We hope you will return on a Sunday morning or for any of the events and opportunities below. There is a place for you here; we're glad to help you discover that.

Fireside Jazz

Come enjoy good food, a jazz trio, fire in the fireplace, and lively fellowship in the Church House

Lobby on January 24 from 6-9 pm. Childcare is available with advance reservation. The suggested donation for the evening is \$40. RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

Church Family Nights

Several times a year, our entire church family regularly gathers on a Friday evening for dinner, fellowship, and a movie. The gym is also open for kids to play. Our next Church Family Night is January 10. Contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com for more information and to sign up.

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School

Did you know our Day School (ages 2-5) is ranked among the highest in the city? If you or someone you know is searching for the right place for a child to get an excellent start to their education, email Becky Simon at admissions@mapc.com for more information or to arrange a tour.

New York City Children's Chorus

This graded choral program for children aged 4-18 in the metropolitan NYC area offers rigorous and rewarding instruction by Mary Huff. The NYCCC is highly sought after and has performed nationally and internationally. Contact Mary Huff at mwh@mapc.com for more information.

Worship on December 29

We will have one worship service at 10:30 am with Rev. Rebecca Heilman preaching.

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*

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*

April E. Martin, *Director of Youth Ministry*

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

Teresa D. Tynes, *Director of Communications*

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

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