



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 25, 2019 • 11:15am



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 for Christmas Day

Prelude

La Nativité (1932)

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

La Crèche (*The Manger*) — Les Anges (*The Angels*)
Les Bergers (*The Shepherds*) — La Sainte Famille (*The Holy Family*)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

Unto us a child is born!

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Let us worship the One who has come to us.

Let us now come to him, joyful and triumphant.

*Hymn 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

A Prayer for Christmas Day

Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman

Incarnate God,

The day of joy returns and crowns another year with peace and goodwill.

Help us to rightly remember the birth of Jesus,

**that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the magi.**

Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with honest and hopeful hearts.

May this morning make us grateful to be your children,

**and may our evening rest be filled with grateful thoughts,
for the sake of the One born to save us. (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

Antioch

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now you 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.**

Our Life Together

*Hymn 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn
Descant: Willcocks*

The First Lesson

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26-38
(NT page 53)

Reading

A Blessing for After

Jan Richardson

Carol

Gabriel's Message

*Basque Carol
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

– Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Helen Karloski, alto; Chloe Holgate, soprano

The Second Lesson

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7
(NT page 54)

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol
arr. David Willcocks

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging Angels singing,
Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you!

– trans. Edith M. Reed (1885-1933)

*Hymn 53

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

The Third Lesson

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8-20
(NT page 54)

Carol	Ding Dong! Merrily on High	<i>16th Century French Melody</i> <i>arr. David Willcocks</i>
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Ding Dong! merrily on high	E'en so here below, below,
In heav'n the bells are ringing	Let steeple bells be swungen,
Ding, dong! verily the sky	And i-o, i-o, i-o,
Is riv'n with angel singing.	By priest and people be sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!	Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
 Your matin chime, ye ringers;
 May you beautifully rime
 Your evetime song, ye singers.
 Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

– G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Reading	Shepherd	<i>Lisa Debney</i>
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The Fourth Lesson	The Arrival of the Magi	Matthew 2:1-12 (NT page 1)
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*Hymn 36	In the Bleak Midwinter	<i>Cranham</i>
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The Fifth Lesson	Simeon and Anna	Luke 2:25-38 (NT page 55)
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Carol	The Infant King (1970)	<i>Basque Noël</i> <i>arr. David Willcocks</i>
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Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the Infant King.

Angels are watching, stars are shining

Over the place where he is lying: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the Infant King.

Soon will come sorrow with the morning,

Soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-doing, Sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the Infant King.

Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
 Then in the grave at last reposing: Sing lullaby!
 Sing lullaby! Lullaby! Is the babe a-waking? Sing lullaby!
 Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
 Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
 Conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!

– Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

The Sixth Lesson

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14
 (NT page 86)

A Story for Christmas Day

The Way Home

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

*Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

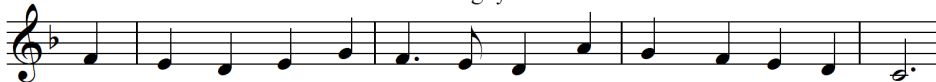
Noel



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are hast - ening on, By proph - ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heaven - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - er - circ - ling years Shall come the time fore - told:



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King."

A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing.
 When peace shall ov - er all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!
 And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

We believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.
We believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village,
 of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,
 and for whom there was no room in the inn.
We believe in the One whose life changed the course of history,
 for whom the kings of the earth had no power,
 and who was not understood by the proud.
We believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,
 the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome
 and accepted as Savior.
We believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud,
 and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served,
 and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.
We believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations
 and love among all.
We believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel.
We believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change
 if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. Amen.

Collection of the Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering

Offertory Carol

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

English Carol
arr. David Willcocks

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
 To see the legend of my play,
 To call my true love to my dance:
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
 This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! my love ...

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! my love ...

Chloe Holgate, soprano

Concluding Prayer

*Hymn 46

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Personent Hodie

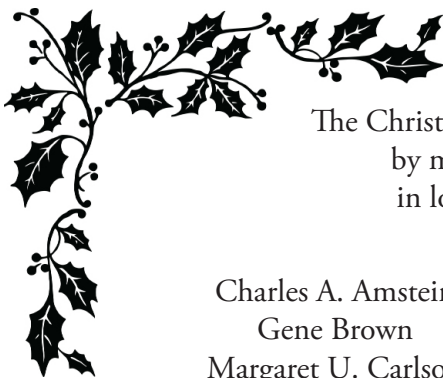
*Benediction

*Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

*The choral arrangements of carols in this morning's service were composed by
the English choral conductor, organist, and composer, David Willcocks (1919-2015),
and are sung in honor of the centenary of his birth.*



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 Day 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 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.

MAPC Children's Ministries

Our vibrant children's ministry includes Fridays for Children and various Sunday events. Email Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com for information.

Youth Fellowship & Service

Middle School Choir & Youth Fellowship resumes on Wednesday, January 15th. Please join us once a month for MAPC Serves, for Pizza & Game Nights and for Shake Shack Sundays. Email Director of Youth Ministries, April Martin, at aem@mapc.com for details.

Service and Outreach


MAPC houses an Overnight Shelter most nights of the week for those seeking permanent housing. We also run a Thursday Night Open Table ministry, which feeds around 125 people each week. Contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com for information.

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.



sacred ordinary days

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

worship at 9 and 11:15 am
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
921 Madison Ave at 73rd Street
mapc.com

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*