



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8, 2019 • 9 & 11:15 am



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, 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

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 the Lord's Day

"What is the chief end of humanity? To glorify God and enjoy God forever."

—*Westminster Confession Question 1*

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Andante (from *Symphony No. 2*)

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844-1937)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

In life and in death, we belong to God.

Through storms and struggles,
through tragedy and travesty,
we belong to God.

On good days and bad days,
in the highest heavens and in the depths of hell,
we belong to God.

With laughter and tears,
with hopes and dreams and fear and trembling,
we belong to God.

We belong to God.

**Let us worship the God who creates us and claims us,
who delights in us and delivers us.**

*Hymn 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden zart

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

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

Merciful God,

Our lives are in your hands:

You knit us together and call us by name.

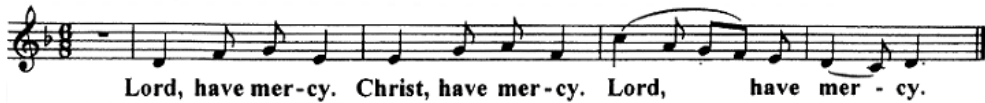
There is nothing that can shake the hold you have on us.

And yet we turn away.

We believe your promises are too good to be true —
that they come with conditions and prerequisites,
that they bear exclusionary clauses and expiration dates.
We have bought into the lie that we belong to the world,
that we are subject to the demands and dangers of commerce and culture.
Remind us with our every breath that we belong to you. (Silent prayer)

Lord, Have Mercy

John Weaver



Assurance of God's Grace

... Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has
par-doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it
was in the be-gin - ing, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Text: Gloria Patri (2nd Century), adapted Paul Vasile
Music: © 2008 Paul Vasile
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*Summary of God's Law

... "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?" Jesus said to him:
"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength.
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

*Passing of the Peace

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

Our Life Together

_____ **Proclaiming God's Word** _____

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Dorothy A. Kleinert (9 am)
Elder Natalie S. Pennington (11:15 am)

First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11
(OT page 677)

*Psalm 139 (Hymn 248)

Sursum Corda

Lesson with the Children and Youth

Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman

Children's Worship: Preschoolers through 2nd graders are dismissed to the Phillips Lounge.

Children will return following the sermon to participate in the rest of the service.

Second Lesson

Psalm 139
(OT page 545)

Sermon

You Belong to God

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

_____ **Responding to God's Word** _____

*Hymn 275

God of Our Life

Sandon

*Affirmation of Faith

from *A Declaration of Faith*, PCUSA, 1985

We believe in one true and living God.

God is greater than our understanding.

We do not fully comprehend who God is or how God works.

The Lord's requirements are not always what we think.

The Lord's care for us is not always what we want.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

We can have confidence in God's coming kingdom

even in the darkest of times.

Jesus is the long expected Savior.

He was born of woman as is every child,

yet born of God's power as was no other child.

Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,

he brings about the relationship between God and humanity

that God always intended.

The Holy Spirit is God active in the world.

The Spirit makes real in us what God has done for us.

As long as we live, we will struggle with sin,

but the Spirit's presence assures us

God will complete what has been begun in us.

We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.

We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.

We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.

We praise and enjoy God.

To worship God is highest joy.

To serve God is perfect freedom.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and Blessing of the Backpacks

All who wish are invited to bring their bags forward at this time.

Presenting Our Offerings to God

Anthem (11:15 am)

Prayer from Psalm 139

*John Weaver
(b. 1937)*

How precious are your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
If I should try to count them they are more in number than the sands. When I
awake I am still with you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and
know my thoughts, see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the
way everlasting. Amen.

—*Psalm 139:17-18, 23-24*

*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.**

Sanctus

Weaver

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

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Acclamation

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name, your
king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us to-day our
dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri-al and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the
king-dom, the pow'r and the glo-ry are yours now and for-ev-er. A-men.

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.

Those seated in the balcony are asked to come to the main level to receive the elements.

Anthem

View Me, Lord

Richard Lloyd
(b. 1933)

View me, Lord, a work of thine:
Shall I then lie drown'd in night?
Might thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade
When the heav'nly light appears;
But the cov'nants thou hast made,
Endless, know nor days, nor years.


Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
At thine altar, pure and white;
They that once thy mercies feel,
Gaze no more on earth's delight.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,
To thy mercies fast I fly;
Though I am but clay and dust,
Yet thy grace can lift me high.

—Thomas Campion
(1567-1620)

from The First Book of Ayres (1601)

Congregational Song (11:15 am)



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

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Prayer at the Conclusion of the Meal

*Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

Slane



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Music: Irish Ballad

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

Weaver



*Postlude

Choral (from *Quatre Pièces, Op. 37*)

Joseph Jongen
(1873-1953)

Today's chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Herbert P. Stellwagen.

Worship Details

Cover Art

"Precious Belonging," by Margaret Hunter, 1988. National Galleries of Scotland.

Information and Announcements

Adult Education

The Sunday series, "Looking at Luke," begins this morning with an overview of the gospel. Join Rev. Beverly Bartlett at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall.

Picnic in the Park

To celebrate the beginning of the new academic year, at 12:45 pm following the 11:15 am worship service, we will gather for a short stroll and picnic in Central Park (near the E. 72nd St. entrance to the park.) In case of rain or extreme heat, we will gather in the Parish Hall.

Church Family Night

The first Church Family Night of the fall is Friday, September 13 at 6 pm. Enjoy a delicious dinner in the Parish Hall, conversation, a craft, movie and playtime in the gym. This event is for everyone in the MAPC church family. The suggested donation for adults is \$20, and a donation of your choice for children under 12. Please RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

Confirmation 2019-2020

Calling all 8th and 9th graders (and families)! Rev. Jenny McDevitt is looking forward to leading this time with you, beginning in October and concluding in April. Classes will take place following the

11:15 am worship service and lunch will be provided. If you or a family member has not yet indicated interest, email Jenny at jmm@mapc.com. She needs an email address for your parent or guardian, and the best way to be in touch with you. A gathering for all prospective Confirmands is scheduled for September 15 at 10:10 am in the Dana Chapel.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, September 9

6:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Phillips Lounge
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Tuesday, September 10

5:00 pm	Hood Library Fellowship	Hood Library
6:30 pm	Personnel Committee	Pastor's Study
7:00 pm	Outreach Committee	Hood Library

Wednesday, September 11

7:30 am	Evangelism Committee	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor

Thursday, September 12

6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
7:00 pm	Saint Andrews Chorale Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Friday, September 13

6:00 pm	Church Family Night	Parish Hall
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Saturday, September 14

No events scheduled

Sunday, September 15

9:00 & 11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 & 11:30 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:00 & 12:30 pm	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
10:10 am	Adult Education	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Confirmand Interest Meeting	Dana Chapel
10:20 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
1:00 pm	ESL Classes	5th Floor
3:00 pm	John Trout Memorial Service	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	John Trout Memorial Reception	Parish Hall

MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SURROUNDED BY

Fall Sermon Series
921 Madison Avenue
Worship at 9 and 11:15 am
www.mapc.com

Next week's sermon: Never Lost, Always Found (Luke 15:1-10)

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*

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

Teresa D. Tynes, *Director of Communication*

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

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