



# Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2019 • 9 & 11:15 am



921 Madison Avenue • [mapc.com](http://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](mailto:lgp@mapc.com).

# Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

*Gracious God, you have filled us with hope and peace already this season.  
May these gifts quiet our hearts that we might hear more of your Advent message.*

---

## Gathering in God's Name

---

Prelude

Four Advent Chorales  
from the *Orgelbüchlein*, BWV 599-603

*Johann Sebastian Bach*  
(1685-1750)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

Where crooked roads need straightening,  
**prepare the way of the Lord.**  
Where people walk in darkness,  
**prepare the way of the Lord.**  
Where busy lives need quieting,  
**prepare the way of the Lord.**  
Where conflict longs for reconciling,  
**prepare the way of the Lord.**  
Where broken hearts cry out for healing,  
**prepare the way of the Lord.**  
Where prophets' voices need to be heard,  
**prepare the way of the Lord.**  
To all of the earth and to all of your people,  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Introit

Fifth "O" Antiphon

*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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Elder Nicolie J. Christin and  
Deacon Penelope B. Gemma (9 am)  
Corinne, Taylor, and Cece Catarozoli (11:15 am)

\*Hymn 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Stuttgart*

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

**Gracious God,**

**As we wait for you this Advent season,**

**we walk through this life you have given us.**

**We walk in the wilderness searching for meaning;**

**catch our attention with mercy and with fire.**

**We walk in the city thirsting for justice;**

**fill us with integrity and hope.**

**We walk toward Bethlehem seeking a Savior;**

**come to us with holiness and joy.**

**As we wait for you this Advent season,**

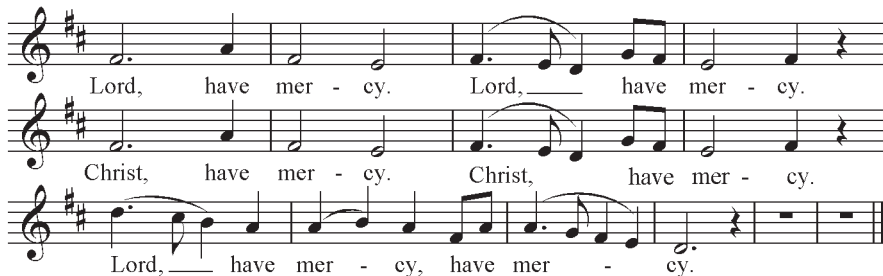
**prepare our hearts**

**so we will notice when you are among us.**

*In the silence, confess the faults and frailties which keep you from trusting God's promises.*

Lord, Have Mercy (from *Deutsche Messe*)

*Franz Schubert*



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*

**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: Paraphrase of Psalm 98, stanza 3, Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: arr. from G. F. Handel by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

\*Summary of God's Law

\*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

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11  
(NT page 10)

\*Canticle

Song of Mary

*Shepherd's Pipes*



1. I mag - ni - fy you Lord, my God, In you I do re - jice,  
2. Your mer - cy is for all who fear Your name in each new day.  
3. Your ser - vant Is - rael you have helped, Your mer - cy ev - er sure,  
In fa - vor you have looked on me, My low - li - ness your choice.  
You scat - ter both the proud and vain; Their ways you put a - way.  
To Ab - ra - ham and all his seed Your pro - mi - ses en - dure.  
All ge - ne - ra - tions now shall say: "How blest is Ma - ry's name!"  
The might - y you de - throne and shame; You lift the low - ly up.  
Come, mag - ni - fy the Lord with me, In this let us re - jice:  
How ho - ly is your name, O Lord, You put a - way my shame.  
The rich are em - pty, sent a - way; The hun - gry rich - ly sup.  
God's ten - der mer - cy shall not fail; Give thanks, lift up your voice!

Text: Fred R. Anderson, © 2011, all rights reserved, based on Luke 1:47-55  
Music: Annabeth McClelland Gay, © Pilgrim Press, 1958  
*Reprinted under OneLicense.net A721566*



## Lesson with the Children

*Children's Worship: Preschoolers through 2nd graders are dismissed to the Phillips Lounge. Children will return during the Doxology to participate in the rest of the service.*

## Gradual

## Sixth “O” Antiphon

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.

## Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10  
(OT page 623)

# Sermon

## The Way of the Desert: Rejoice and Blossom

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

## Responding to God's Word

\*Hymn (11:15 am)

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

*Merton*



1. Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing:"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2. Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn-ing, let us all from sleep a - rise;
3. Lo! the Lamb,so long ex-pect-ed,comes with par-don down from heaven;
4. When our Sav - ior comes in glo - ry, though the world be wrapped in fear,
5. Hon - or, glo - ry, might and bless-ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



"Cast a - way the dreams of dark-ness, O you chil-dren of the day!"  
 Christ, our sun, all ill dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for - given.  
 with his mer - cy he will shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

Text: Latin, 6th Century, trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1848), alt.  
Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

\*Affirmation of Faith

## The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

*... O come, O come Emmanuel.*  
**Come and save your people.**

### Presenting Our Offerings to God

Anthem (11:15 am)

Springs in the Desert (1920)

*Arthur B. Jennings*  
(1887-1972)

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams flow in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs and everlasting joy: and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*— from Isaiah 35:1, 4*

Joshua Simka, tenor

### \*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

*Schubert*

. . . 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.*

*Those seated in the balcony, please come to the main level to receive the elements.*

Anthem (11:15 am)

Magnificat in G major (1943)

*Herbert Sumson*  
(1899-1995)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.

— *Luke 1:47-55*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

## Congregational Song



Text: Taizé Community / Music: Jacques Berthier; © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-721566.

## Prayer at the Conclusion of the Meal

\*Hymn 6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

*Helmsley*

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response

*Weaver*



\*Postlude

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

*Bach*

---

## Worship Details

---

Cover Art

Man painting in Rainbow Village in Nantun District, Taichung, Taiwan.

---

## Information and Announcements

---

Adult Education

At 10:10 am today in the Parish Hall, we continue to reflect on the openings of the four gospels—Matthew and Luke who have birth narratives, and Mark and John who take a different approach in telling of Jesus’ coming into the world. Rev. Bartlett leads these classes, using Dr. Cynthia Campbell’s book, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*.

Carol Sing

Today at 4 pm, the Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and the New York City Children’s Chorus will sing Vaughan Williams’s *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* along with other pieces of seasonal choral music. Seasonal readings and poetry will be read by Meg Connor Johnson and Dominic Gurney, and the audience will be invited to join in the singing of Christmas carols. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Admission is free, but a free-will offering in support of the Saint Andrew Music Society will be taken at the end of the concert.

Christmas Flowers

Poinsettias will once again grace the sanctuary this Christmas season. Gifts may be made in memory or in honor of loved ones. To make a donation, use the special insert in the bulletin. Place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church office. The suggested donation for each name is \$40. In order to include the names in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we must receive your donation by Wednesday, December 18.

Blue Christmas

For some of us, this season feels like anything but “the most wonderful time of the year.” This quiet,

contemplative service will include song, scripture, prayer, communion, and candle lighting. All are welcome in the Dana Chapel on Wednesday, December 18 at 6 pm. Refreshments will follow in the Phillips Lounge.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 16

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Evening Bible Study	8th Floor

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 pm	Paul Volcker Memorial Service	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Budget Committee Meeting #2	8th Floor

Wednesday, December 18

8:00 am	Trustees	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
6:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service	Dana Chapel
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service Fellowship	Phillips Lounge

Thursday, December 19

1:00 pm	Spiritual Growth & Faith Sharing	James Lenox House
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall

Friday, December 20

no events scheduled

Saturday, December 21

no events scheduled

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
10:10 am	Adult Education	Parish Hall
10:10 am	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
10:10 am	Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grade)	5th Fl.; Youth Lounge
10:10 am	Open Playtime (Toddlers -11 yrs)	Gym/Roof Garden
10:20 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Children's Worship	Phillips Lounge
12:30 pm	Fellowship Hour	Lobby
1:00 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
1:00 pm	Family Service Rehearsal	Sanctuary



# O Come All Ye Faithful

Christmas at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Family Service 5 pm December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 10:30 pm December 24  
(prelude begins 10:15 pm)

Christmas Day Lessons and Carols 11:15 am December 25

Sunday Worship 10:30 am December 29



## 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*