



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

921 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021 212-288-8920

www.mapc.com

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

Sunday, December 25, 2016 at 11:15 am

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH COMMUNION

Please silence your cellular telephones and electronic devices.

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

Eric O. Springsted

Pastor: Today Christ is born;

People: Today salvation has appeared;

Pastor: Today angels are singing and archangels rejoicing;

People: Today we exult and say: Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia!

**Let all who are able, stand*

*HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

CONFESSION OF SIN

Christopher De La Cruz

Holy God, you brought light, peace and goodness to earth when Christ your Word was born. We confess that we have not always followed the light of your Word. You sent a star to guide people to the Holy Child, but we have not searched for new signs of your love in the world. We have refused your Son's peace, hoping for little, and expecting less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our faith, that we may once more hear and rejoice in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

(Silence for personal confession)

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*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 PARDON

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

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

In Dulci Jubilo

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!

*SUMMARY OF THE LAW

*PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: Since we have been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ,
let us be reconciled to one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.

*Please greet those around you with: “The peace of Christ be with you,”
responding, “And also with you.”*

*HYMN 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

THE FIRST LESSON Luke 1:26-38 **Dr. Springsted**

CAROL From *Three Carol-Anthems* (1920) *Herbert Howells*
(1892-1983)

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers’ foreshowing
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the darkest midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God’s great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter’s night.

– Anonymous (14th Century)

Rod Gomez, baritone

THE SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-7 **Mr. De La Cruz**

*HYMN 53 What Child Is This *Greensleeves*

THE THIRD LESSON Luke 2:8-20 **Tyler W. Orem**

CAROL Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *Polish Carol*
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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!

– Polish Carol, trans. Edith M. Reed (1885-1933)

THE FOURTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 **Andrew D. Smothers**

*HYMN 36 In the Bleak Midwinter *Cranham*

THE FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2:13-16 **Beverly A. Bartlett**

CAROL Lully, Lulla, Lullay (2011) *Philip Stopford*
(b. 1977)

Lully, lulla, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day?
This poor youngling, for whom we do sing, by by, lully lullay?
Herod, the king, in his raging charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,
For thy parting neither say nor sing, By by, lully lullay!

– *The Pageant of Shearmen and Tailors (15th Century)*

Eliza Bagg, soprano

THE SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Dr. Springsted

*HYMN 51

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Humility

Stanza 1 & Refrains: All

Stanza 2: Upper Voices; Stanza 3: Lower Voices

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Mr. Smothers

Pastor: All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

Pastor: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory,
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by your presence.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time
for the liberation of all creation:
Release all into your promised freedom.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,
born in a stable at Bethlehem:
May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, truly God and truly human,
born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:
Fulfill our desires in you.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,
child of wonder and splendor,
mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:
May the whole world live in peace and justice.

People: Lord, have mercy.

(silence)

Pastor: All-powerful and unseen God,
the coming of your light into our world
has brightened weary hearts with peace.
Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Springsted

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Mid-winter

*Harold Darke
(1888-1976)*

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.
 Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign.
 In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
 The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
 A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
 Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
 The ox and ass and camel which adore.

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

– Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Eliza Bagg, soprano; Tommy Wazelle, 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The table of our Lord Jesus Christ is open to all who are baptized. Those who do not wish to take Communion are invited to remain seated in prayer. You are asked to join in the responses as indicated.)

INVITATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

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

SANCTUS

Schubert

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.

(Communion Prayer continues) "...therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:"

ACCLAMATION

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

BREAKING BREAD & SHARING THE CUP

Pastor: Gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Let us keep the feast.

DISTRIBUTION

When the pastors take their serving places, please come forward, using the center aisle, beginning with the front row. The white bread is made from wheat; darker bread in the center is gluten-free rice bread. The bronze chalices contain wine; the glass chalices contain grape juice. Hold out your hands, one open palm placed on the other, and bread will be placed in your hand. For rice bread, please take it yourself, exercising care not to touch other pieces. You may eat the bread and move to the cup of wine to drink or dip your bread before eating, or move to the cup of juice and dip your bread, exercising care not to touch the liquid or cup with your fingers. Those unable to come forward will be served in their pews. If not communing, please remain in your pew in prayer.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

*Austrian Carol
 arr. Philip Ledger (b. 1937)*

Still, still, still, weils Kindlein schlafen will!
 Maria tut es niedersingen, ihre keusche Brust darbringen.

Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein schlaf!
 Die Engel tun schön musizieren, vor dem Kindlein jubilieren.

Gross, gross, gross, die Lieb ist übergross!
 Gott hat den Himmelsthron verlassen und muss reisen auf der Strassen.

*Still, still, still, the little child wants to sleep!
 Mary sings him down to sleep and offers her pure breast.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, dear little child, sleep,
 The angels make music so beautifully, they rejoice before the child.*

*Great, great, great, the love is very great!
 God has left his heavenly throne and now must travel on the streets.*

