



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

The Nativity of Jesus Christ
Friday, December 25, 2015 at 11:15 am

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please silence your cellular telephones and electronic devices.

PRELUDE

La Nativité

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 N. 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)

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 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."*

WELCOME

Dr. Springsted

*HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Beverly A. Bartlett

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel (1989)

Basque Carol

arr. Anthony Prower (b. 1928)

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)*

Katherine Wessinger, soprano

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Andrew D. Smothers

CAROL

Mary's Magnificat (1986)

Andrew Carter

(b. 1939)

Softly a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Mary her song to Jesus
Softly, serenely sings:
'I will love you, I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings.'

– *Andrew Carter; Luke 1:46*

Eliza Bagg, soprano

*HYMN 25/24

Away in a Manger
Stanzas 1 & 3: Hymn 25
Stanza 2: Hymn 24

Cradle Song/Mueller

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Donald B. Wahlig

CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (1974)

Polish Carol

arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

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

Dr. Springsted

*HYMN 36

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

THE FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:13-16

Mr. De La Cruz

CAROL

The Coventry Carol (1913)

English Carol

arr. Martin Shaw (1876-1958)

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully, 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)*

THE SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Ms. Bartlett

*HYMN 51

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Humility

Stanza 1 & Refrains: All
Stanza 2: Women
Stanza 3: Men

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Dr. Springsted

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.

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.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING OFFERTORY CAROL

Cradle Song (2014)

Welsh Lullaby
arr. Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber;
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.
Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide;
All without thy care and payment,
All thy wants are well supplied.

Soft and easy is thy cradle;
Coarse and hard thy Savior lay,
When his birthplace was a stable
And his softest bed was hay.
See the kindly shepherds round him,
Telling wonders from the sky!
When they sought him, there they found him,
With his virgin mother by.

May'st thou live to know and fear him,
Trust and love Him all thy days;
Then go dwell forever near him,
See his face and sing his praise.
Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber;
Holy angels guard thy bed;
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.

– Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

***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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Mr. Wahlig

***HYMN 46**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Personent Hodie

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Dr. Springsted

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)*



Gifts for the Annual Christmas Joy Offering are being received today, along with regular offerings for 2015 and pledges of support for 2016. “Joy” gifts make possible the supplementation of retired church workers’ pensions, and assistance for Presbyterian racial/ethnic schools that serve children and older students living in limited circumstances.

Welcome! We’re glad you’ve joined us for worship today. We pray that you experience Christ in our midst, and that his presence will sustain you in the week ahead. We invite you to place your name and contact information on one of the pew pads. If our pastors can assist you in some special way, indicate this in the space provided and they will be in touch with you. If you are considering becoming Christian or looking for a church home, our pastors would be delighted to talk with you and discuss whatever questions you might have. We urge you to consider becoming a member of this congregation and hope you will make MAPC your church home in this city.

Children are especially welcome in our worship services. Special bulletins are available for them in the Narthex.

MAPC 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.

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Associate Pastor*

Christina A. Cosby, *Seminarian*

Christopher N. De La Cruz, *Director of Christian Formation*

Dr. Andrew E. Henderson, *Director of Music & Organist*

Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music*

David A. Kling, *Seminarian*

The Rev. Tyler W. Orem, *Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow (2015-2017)*

The Rev. Andrew D. Smothers, *Parish Associate for Global Ministry (2014-2016)*

The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted, *Interim Pastor*

The Rev. Donald B. Wahlig, *Associate Pastor*

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

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

Laura Graham, *Director of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School*

The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Shoup, *Pastoral Counselor (212-628-1812)*

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

IN MEMORY

Pearl Gordon Bennett
Gene M. Brown

Margaret U. Carlson
John N. Charugundla
Elma and John S. Cole
Timothy J. Connor
Timothy J. Connor, Sr.

Robert J. DeBono

Florence A. Ehlinger
Virginia Evans

Doris and Arthur Gaebler
William P. Given, MD
Julia Maxwell Gordon
Robert Bruce Gordon

Gordon A. Hardy
Lillian S. Hardy
Catherine and William Hauber
The Haugh Family
Elizabeth M. and Kenneth F. Herrold
William Hinrichs II
Anna K. Hoffman
Helen Biddle Holkeboer
Anne and Harold Hudaverdi
Christine Marie Hudaverdi
Dorothy H. Hupper

Bonnie S. Johnson
Bruce F. Jones
Dorothy B. Jones
Gerald F. Jones, MD
Minerva E. Jones
Rosemary S. Jones

Agob Keuchkerian
Marie Keuchkerian
Dora Kleinert
Elmer Kleinert

Sabina and Frank Latall
Mr. and Mrs. L. Hudson Leathers
Jean Albrecht Lucken
Daniel L. Lynch

Allison Bailey MacEachron
The Duer McLanahan Family
Marie L. and Alexander F. Mezo

Ronald E. Nichols
The Rev. Robert A. Nunn

R. Neil Proffitt

Rose and George Rabstejnek
Rudolph C. Rabstejnek
The Thomas Rabstenek Family
The Rev. Dr. David H. C. Read
Patricia Gilbert Read
Marilyn Riccardi
Thomas Peter Riccardi, Sr.
Kate Walker Roby
Wade Hampton Roby

Gloria Anne Baillie Schmitt
The Rev. D. O. Smart IV
Dr. Hamilton Southworth
Esther M. and Herbert P. Stellwagen
Lillian R. Stump
Agnes and Ernest F. Sturm
The Rev. and Mrs. Birger Swenson

Julia E. Taschereau

George Vician, Jr.

Miriam Dwight Walker
Maggie White

Kim T. and William E. Yamaguchi

IN HONOR

Our Friends at MAPC