



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

Christmas Eve

Family Service

December 24, 2017 at 5 pm

Please silence your cellular telephones and other electronic devices..

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among all people with whom God is pleased.” (Luke 2:14)

PRELUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

(Vom Himmel hoch)

(1653-1703)

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Dieterich Buxtehude

(In Dulci Jubilo)

(1637-1707)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric O. Springsted

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: There is good news of great joy for all!

People: Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

Pastor: Light shines on those who live in darkness,

People: For a child is born to us this night.

Pastor: In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

People: Let us worship God.

*Let all who are able stand.

*CAROL

Adeste Fideles

1. **O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!**
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*
2. **Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him ...**

CONFession OF SIN (*unison*)

Dr. Springsted

God our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in your light. We pursue worldly passions and revere false idols. We cherish our possessions and reject your good gifts.

Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to live as your people, following your holy way and rejoicing in your saving love.

(Silence for personal confession)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

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 ye 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."*

*CAROL

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

A READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Dr. Springsted

Beverly A. Bartlett

MARY AND JOSEPH

CAROL

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

CAROL

St. Louis

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

JESUS IS BORN

CAROL

Mueller

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

CAROL

Greensleeves

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom Shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

THE ANGELS VISIT THE SHEPHERDS

CAROL

Gloria

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT THE STABLE

CAROL

Gloria

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

CAROL

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell ...

ROYAL VISITORS FROM THE EAST

CAROL

Three Kings of Orient

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

WHY WE TELL THE STORY

CAROL

African-American Spiritual

- Refrain:* Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!
1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)
 2. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

PRAYER

CAROL

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING
& CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

OFFERTORY SOLO

O Holy Night

*Adolph Adam
(1803-1856)*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

— *Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure (1808-1877);
trans. John S. Dwight (1812-1893)*

Christian Henderson, treble**LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS**

Dr. Springsted

Pastor: The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Pastor: Jesus, Son of the living God,
splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness,
born of the Virgin Mary:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom,
our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

(silence)

Pastor: Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

People: Amen.

1. **Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**
2. **He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Springsted

*POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends Rejoice
(In Dulci Jubilo)

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

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 about it.

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

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

The Rev. Andrew D. Smothers, *Interim Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Paula V. Cooper, *Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow (2017-2019)*

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

Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music*

Christina A. Cosby, *Director of Christian Formation*

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

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

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

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