



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017 at 10:30 pm

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Please silence your cellular telephones and devices.

Prayer of Preparation

(You are invited to offer the following prayer as preparation for our worship.)

Almighty God, creator of light, your eternal Word entered the world in the silent hours of the night, and now your church is filled with joy at the nearness of your presence. Open our hearts to receive Christ's light and increase our vision with the coming of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his mercy and peace, through him who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

Christmas Day (1910)
"A Choral Fantasy on Old Carols"

Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Come, ye Lofty, Come, ye Lowly – The First Nowell

Eliza Bagg, soprano; Helen Karloski, alto
Tommy Wazelle, tenor; Rod Gomez, bass

Aria in Classic Style (1944)

Marcel Grandjany
(1891-1975)

Jacqueline Kerrod, harp

INTROIT

Sussex Carol (1961)

David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

arr. Andrew Henderson

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad:
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen.'

– English Carol, collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric O. Springsted

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
On them light has shined.**

Pastor: For unto us a Child is born;

People: **Unto us a Son is given.**

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest,

People: **And peace to God's people on earth.**

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

People: **Let us worship God!**

*Let all who are able stand.

CONFESSION OF SIN *(unison)*

Andrew D. Smothers

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the light of all people, the light shining in the darkness. We are sorrowful in confessing that we have not always come to the light, and have turned from it lest our deeds be seen for what they are, for we have loved neither God nor neighbor as we ought. We have hoped for little and sought for holiness even less. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your loving kindness. Forgive our sin. And, then, because you sent your Son to become one of us, so that we might become children of God, open our eyes to his light, and teach us again the way to go, that we might love even as we have been loved. For Christ's sake we pray.

(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 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."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mr. Smothers

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

(nrsv, page 600 OT)

ANTHEM

From *Christmas Oratorio*

J. S. Bach

(1685-1750)

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.
You shepherds shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child now weak in infancy our confidence and joy shall be;
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

– Johann Rist (1607-1667)

EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 2:11-14
(*nrsv, page 202 NT*)

Christina A. Cosby

*HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20
(*nrsv, page 54 NT*)

Beverly A. Bartlett

SERMON

“The Light Within”

Dr. Springsted

*HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Descant: David Willcocks

*THE NICENE CREED

Ms. Cosby

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ms. Bartlett

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Springsted

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING & CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

ANTHEM

Serenity:
O Magnum Mysterium (2011)

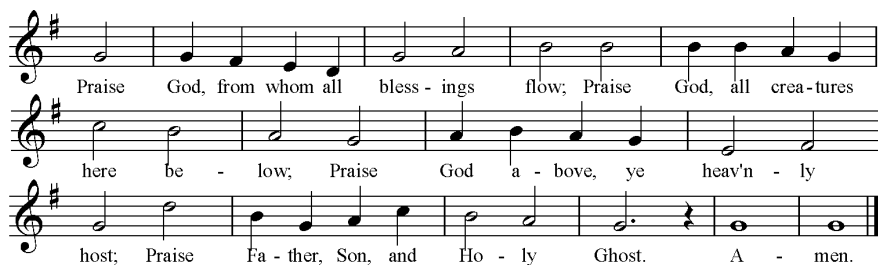
Ola Gjeilo
(*b. 1978*)

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentum in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

– Matins Responsory for Christmas Day

Miranda Cuckson, violin



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

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You fashioned light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to call us back to your way.

In the fullness of time you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Emmanuel!

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs, angels and archangels, and the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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,

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

We give you thanks that on the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and having given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body given for you; take eat, do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**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!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus is God-with-us. Give us courage to bear him in the pain and suffering, falsehood and injustice we encounter in this broken world. Keep us faithful in Christ's service until he comes in final victory and we feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **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.

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; the 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.

DURING COMMUNION

Myn Lyking (1912)

Richard Runciman Terry
(1865-1938)

I saw a fair mayden syttin and sing.
She lulled a lyttel childe, a sweete lording.

*Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweeting.
Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.*

That same Lord is he that made alle thing;
Of alle lordis he is Lord, of alle kynges Kyng.

There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth.
All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle mirth.

Angels bright sang their song to that chylde;
Blyssid be thou, and so be she, so meek and so mild.

Lullay myn lyking ...

— Anonymous (15th Century)

Katherine Wessinger, soprano; Marc Molomot, tenor

HYMN (please remain seated) Silent Night *Stille Nacht*

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the savior is born."

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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.

*HYMN 40

Joy to the World

Antioch

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Springsted

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Vom Himmel hoch"
(from *Christmas Suite No. 2*, 1937)

Garth Edmundson
(1900-1971)

Instrumentalists

**Miranda Cuckson & Alex Weill, *violin*; Wendy Richman, *viola*;
Mihai Marica, *cello*; Pawel Knapik, *bass*; Jacqueline Kerrod, *harp***

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

The Ahlgren Family	Mr. and Mrs. L. Hudson Leathers
Armik Barseghian	Catherine Malcom
Gene Brown	John McChord
H. Peter Burg	Josephine McFadden
Sheila Clark	Marie L. and Alexander F. Mezo
Elma and John S. Cole	Ronald E. Nichols
Melda and Bertram Danziger	John Novotny
Robert Joseph DeBono	Edna D. Palmer
Jerrey F. Glotfelty	Florence Powell
William P. Given, MD	Rose and George Rabstajnek
Robert Bruce Gordon	Rudolph C. Rabstajnek
Julia Maxwell Gordon	The Thomas Rabstajnek Family
Catherine and William Hauber	The Rev. Dr. David H. C. Read
The Haugh Family	Patricia Gilbert Read
Elizabeth M. Herrold	Marilyn and Thomas Riccardi
Kenneth F. Herrold	Wade and Kate Roby
Frank Hohmann, Sr.	Gloria Anne Baillie Schmitt
Tera Hohmann	Marie Sickmuller
Anna K. Hoffman	Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton Southworth
Anne and Harold Hudaverdi	Ethelyn Smith
Dorothy H. Hupper	Herbert Smith, Sr.
Jack Hupper	Phillips Talbot
Gabrielle Ives	Parents and Grandparents of the Tonking Family
Bruce F. Jones	George Vician, Jr.
Dorothy B. Jones	Miriam Dwight Walker
Gerald F. Jones, M.D.	Dorothy Xavier
Minerva E. Jones	Kim T. Yamaguchi
Rosemary S. Jones	William E. Yamaguchi
Dora and Elmer Kleinert	

Welcome!

We're glad you've joined us for worship this evening. 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.

Gifts for the Annual Christmas Joy Offering are being received today, along with regular offerings for 2017 and pledges of support for 2018. "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.

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Day

11:15 am

Service of Lessons and Carols

*Choral Music by Otto Goldschmidt, Henry Walford Davies,
John Rutter, Martin Shaw & David Willcocks*

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas

11:15 am

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Andrew D. Smothers, preaching

Choral Music by Herbert Howells & David Willcocks

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*