

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Psalm 42

Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God.
Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Bowed be - neath op - pres-sion's load.
Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war - fare now is o - ver.

Text: Johannes Olearius (1671), trans. Catherine Winkworth (1863)

Music: Genevan Psalter (1551)

*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

*John Weaver
(b. 1937)*

Sixth "O" Antiphon

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 7:10-16

Christopher De La Cruz

(nrsv, page 598 OT)

*PSALM 80 (Hymn 206)

Vineyard Haven

*(During the last stanza of the canticle, children and young people are invited to come
forward, gathering around the Baptismal Font for the Lesson for Young Christians.)*

LESSON FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Dr. Springsted

DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORSHIP

Children's Worship – Children preschool through 3rd grade may exit to the Phillips Lounge.

Youth Worship – Young people 4th grade to 8th grade may exit to the Dana Chapel.

*The Children & Youth return to the Sanctuary at the Doxology to participate in the rest of
the service.*

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

(nrsv, page 142 NT)

Andrew D. Smothers

GRADUAL

Seventh “O” Antiphon

Weaver

O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, Desire of the nations and Savior of all: come and save us, O Lord, our God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Beverly A. Bartlett

(nrsv, page 1 NT)

SERMON**“Hearing the Words of Angels”****Dr. Springsted*****HYMN 16**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

*Gabriel’s Message****THE NICENE CREED****William A. Jordan**

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**Dr. Springsted****CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH****WORD IN ACTION****“Christmas Joy Offering”****Mr. Smothers****COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING****OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11:15 am)**

Remember, O Thou Man (2003)

Bob Chilcott

(b. 1955)

Remember, O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember, O thou man,
thy time is spent:
Remember, O thou man,
How thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can:
Therefore repent!

Remember God’s goodness,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember God’s goodness
And promise made!
Remember God’s goodness;
How he sent his son, doubtless,
Our sins for to redress;
Be not afraid!

The angels all did sing, O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man,
The angels all did sing
On heav’n’s high hill!
The angels all did sing
Praises to our heav’lly King,
And peace to man living
With a good will.

To Bethl’em did they go, O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man,
To Bethl’em did they go
The shepherds three;
To Bethl’em did they go
To see whether it was so,
Whether Christ was born or no
To set man free.

— Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1582-1635), from Melismata (1611)

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, 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 (11:15 am)

The Cherry Tree Carol

English Carol

arr. David Willcocks (b. 1919)

Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he,
When he married Mary in the Land of Galilee.

And as they were walking through an orchard so good,
Where were cherries and berries as red as any blood.

O then bespoke Mary, with words both meek and mild,
'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph; for that I am with child.'

'Go to the tree then, Mary, and it shall bow to thee;
And you shall gather cherries by one, by two, by three.'

Then bowed down the highest tree unto our Lady's hand;
'See,' Mary cried, 'see, Joseph, I have cherries at command.'

Then Mary plucked a cherry, as red as any blood,
Then Mary went she homewards all with her heavy load.

- English Carol (15th Century)

Katherine Wessinger, soprano

CONGREGATIONAL SONG



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

Text: Taizé Community / Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984
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CLOSING PRAYER

*HYMN 13

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Springsted

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Weaver



*POSTLUDE

Prelude in C major, BWV 547

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.

Have children? Children and families are always welcome in the Sanctuary to worship. Children three and under may be taken to the Nursery on the 4th Floor or remain with their parents. The Narthex or the Children's Library, adjacent to the Sanctuary, are also available for families and have speakers that provide audio of the service.

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*

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

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

Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music*

William A. Jordan, *Seminarian*

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

David P. Smith, *Seminarian*

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

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