



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016 at 9 and 11:15 am

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Word and Sacrament

Please silence your cellular telephones.

We encourage you to begin this time of worship in silent prayer.

Prayer of Preparation

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Nancianne Parrella, guest organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrew D. Smothers

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the promised days.

People: **Nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they war anymore.**

Pastor: Surely the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise.

People: **I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David.**

Pastor: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

People: **The night is far gone, the day is near.**

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

People: **Let us worship God.**

*Let all who are able stand.

*HYMN 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

CONFESSON OF SIN (*unison*)

Christopher N. De La Cruz

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

(Silence for personal confession)

LORD, HAVE MERCY (from *Deutsche Messe*)

Franz Schubert

Musical notation for "Lord, Have Mercy" in G major, 2/4 time. The lyrics are repeated three times: "Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, have mercy." The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Psalm 42

Musical notation for "Psalm 42" in G major, 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "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." The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

First "O" Antiphon

John Weaver
(b. 1937)

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: come now and teach us the way to salvation.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

(nrsv, page 594 OT)

Mr. De La Cruz

*PSALM 122 (Hymn 235)

Gonfalon Royal

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

LESSON FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Mr. Smothers

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 13:11-14 <i>(nrsv, page 152 NT)</i>	Mr. Smothers
THE GOSPEL	Matthew 24:36-44 <i>(nrsv, page 26 NT)</i>	
SERMON	<i>"Anticipating the Impossible"</i>	Mr. Smothers
*HYMN 17 <i>(11:15 am)</i>	"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us	<i>Wachet auf</i>

*THE NICENE CREED

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	Mr. Smothers
-----------------------	--------------

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

WORD IN ACTION	Elder Katherine F. Hoffman <i>"Alternative Gift Fair"</i>
----------------	--

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(11:15 am)*

O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem (1941) *Herbert Howells*
(1892-1983)

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces. *(Psalm 122:6-7)*

*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

...in your holy church, 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.

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)

People, Look East (2002)

Besançon Carol

arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

—Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

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
© 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-721566.

CLOSING PRAYER

*HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mr. Smothers

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Weaver



*POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Magnificat,
BWV 733

J. S. Bach

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)*