



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015 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, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us the wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ, who is coming in glory to establish his kingdom of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

Four Advent Chorale Preludes
from the *Orgelbüchlein*, BWV 599-602

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric O. Springsted

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 days
when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.

People: The desert shall rejoice and blossom;

Pastor: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

People: And rejoice with joy and singing.

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

People: The Lord is at hand!

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

People: Let us worship God.

*Let all who are able stand.

*HYMN 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

CONFESSION OF SIN (*unison*)

David A. Kling

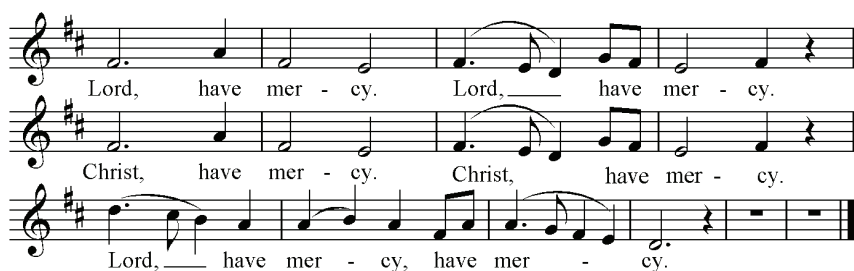
John the Baptist came proclaiming “repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” The prophet Isaiah spoke, saying, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” We confess before you, Lord, that our paths have not been straight. We have not hoped for your Kingdom, and we are not prepared. For we have wandered from your ways and wasted your gifts. We have put ourselves ahead of our neighbors, and even your service, our God. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

O Lord, whose goodness is always to have mercy and to make good the sinner, have mercy upon us we pray. Forgive us where we have erred; make straight our paths where they have been crooked. And so turn hearts of disobedience to the wisdom of the just, that at Christ's coming, we may be found acceptable in your sight, and may welcome him with confidence and joy.

(Silence for personal confession)

LORD, HAVE MERCY (from *Deutsche Messe*)

Franz Schubert



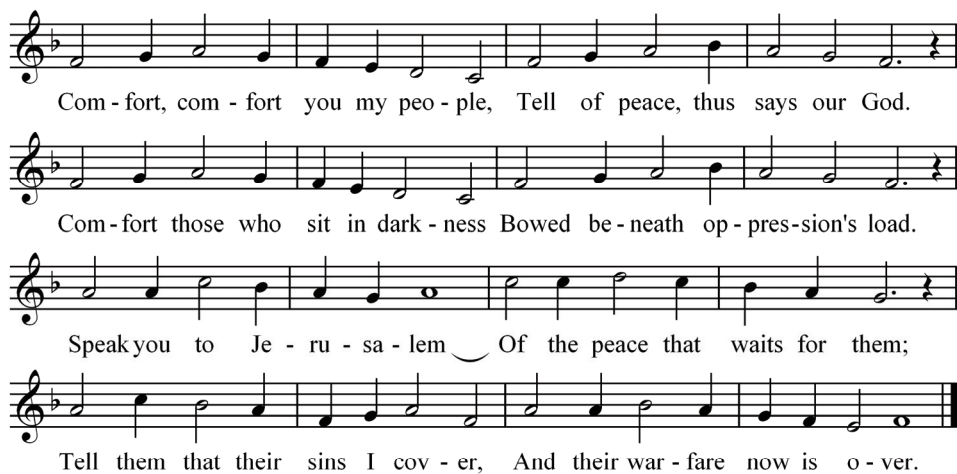
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Psalm 42



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)

Fifth "O" Antiphon

O Morning Star, Splendor of eternal Light, Sun of justice: come, shine on those
who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Beverly A. Bartlett

Zephaniah 3:14-20
(nrsv, page 826 OT)

*(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.)*

***CANTICLE**

First Song of Isaiah

Rendez à Dieu

1. Sure - ly the Lord is my sal - va - tion, Trust God and
 2. Sing praise to God, whose works are glo - rious, Through all the
 do not be a - fraid. Lord God, you are my con - so - la - tion,
 earth let this be known; Shout loud, and sing for joy, O Zi - on,
 True source of strength, my con-stant aid. Joy - ful, we drink of your sal-
 Great is the Ho - ly One a - lone. Call on God's name in a - do -
 va - tion, a cup of trust that drives out fear. Glad - ly we
 ra - tion give thanks in ev - 'ry thought and deed, Shout loud and
 say to ev - 'ry na - tion: "Great is our Lord who's al - ways near."
 sing for joy, O Zi - on: "Great is the Lord, our God, in - deed!"

Text: Fred R. Anderson, © 2006, *all rights reserved*, based on Isaiah 12:2-6

Tune: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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**Philippians 4:4-9
(*nrsv*, page 187 NT)**Andrew D. Smothers****GRADUAL**

Sixth "O" Antiphon

Weaver

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.

THE GOSPELLuke 3:7-18
(*nrsv*, page 56 NT)**Donald B. Wahlig****SERMON*****"Prepare Ye The Way! Think!"*****Dr. Springsted*****HYMN 10**

(11:15 am)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Winchester New****THE NICENE CREED****Mr. Kling****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
...in your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Ms. Bartlett

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(11:15 am)*
Rejoice in the Lord Always Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

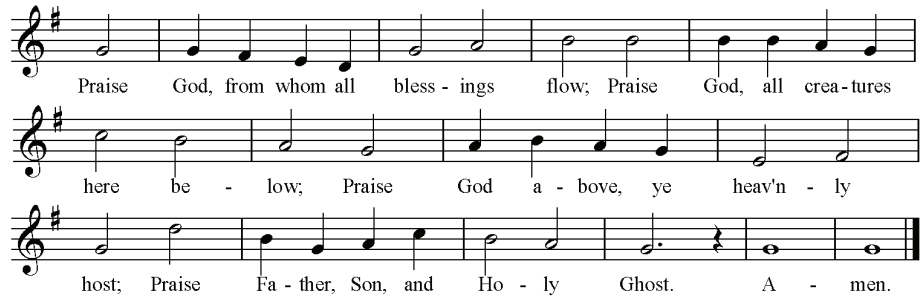
Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice! Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Philippians 4:4, 6, 7)

Helen Karloski, alto; John Kawa, tenor; Rod Gomez, bass

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly 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 AIR & CHORUS (11:15 am)

From *Messiah*

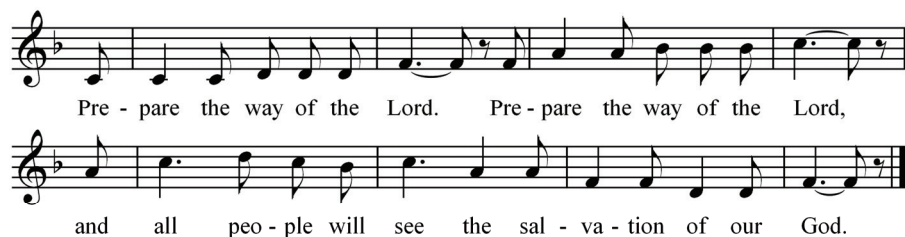
G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 6:9; 40:1)

Helen Karloski, alto

CONGREGATIONAL SONG



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CLOSING PRAYER

*HYMN 6 Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending *Helmsley*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION **Dr. Springsted**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Weaver*



*POSTLUDE Alleluyas *Simon Preston (b. 1938)*

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. We urge you to consider becoming a member of this congregation and hope you will make MAPC your church home in this city.

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*

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)*