



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 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

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again. Keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE Two settings of 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland' *J. S. Bach*
 from the *Leipzig Chorales*, BWV 660 & 659 (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.

People: We are preparing ourselves for the day
When the wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
The calf and the lion and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them.

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

People: Let us worship God.

*Let all who are able stand.

***HYMN 14** Savior of the Nations, Come *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

CONFession OF SIN (unison) **Donald B. Wahlig**

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

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

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)

Third "O" Antiphon

O Root of Jesse, a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep
silent and nations give you honor. Come quickly to deliver us.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

Christopher N. De La Cruz

(nrsv, page 838 OT)

*CANTICLE (Hymn 602)

Song of Zechariah

Merle's Tune

(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

Philippians 1:3-11

(*nrsv, page 185 NT*)

Beverly A. Bartlett

GRADUAL

Fourth "O" Antiphon

Weaver

O Key of David, Scepter of the House of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open. Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

(*nrsv, page 56 NT*)

Christina A. Cosby

SERMON

"Love and Knowledge"

Dr. Springsted

*HYMN 13

(11:15 am)

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:15 am)

Elder Curtis L. Field

Lindsey Hess, by *Reaffirmation of Faith*

Stuart Holden, by *Reaffirmation of Faith*

Nancy Trinka, by *Reaffirmation of Faith*

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(11:15 am) Let us pray: Holy God: Source, Goal and Guide, remind us of the promises given in our baptisms and renew our trust in you. Bind us to your Word and fill us with your Spirit, that together we may love one another and serve you with joy, that others may see Christ in us and embrace him as Lord and Savior as well. Amen.

AARONIC BENEDICTION (11:15 am)

Weaver

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to
shine up - on you and be gracieous un - to you; the Lord lift up his
coun - te - nance up - on you, and give you peace. A - men.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dr. Springsted

...in your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Ms. Bartlett

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO & CHORALE (11:15 am)

From *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248

J. S. Bach

Bereite dich, Zion, mit zärtlichen
Trieben, Den Schönsten, den
Liebsten bald bei dir zu sehn!

*Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender
affection, the fairest, the dearest soon
midst thee to see!*

Desirée Baxter, alto

Wie soll ich dich empfangen
Und wie begegn' ich dir?
O aller Welt Verlangen,
O meiner Seelen Zier!
O Jesu, Jesu, setze
Mir selbst die Fackel bei,
Damit, was dich ergötze,
Mir kund und wissend sei!

*How shall I then receive thee
And how thy presence find?
Desire of ev'ry nation,
O glory of my soul!
O Jesus, Jesus,
Set out for me thy torch,
That all that brings thee pleasure
By me be clearly known.*

*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. Amen.

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.

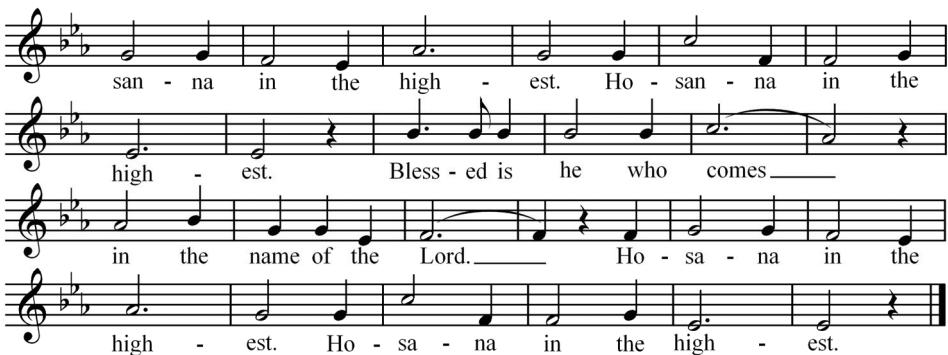
COMMUNION PRAYER

"...who forever sing to the glory of your name:"

SANCTUS

Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, _____. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, _____. Heav-en and earth are full _____. of your glo - ry. Ho - .



(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)

People, Look East (1995)

*Besançon Carol,
arr. Craig Phillips (b. 1961)*

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 GIA Publications, Inc.
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CLOSING PRAYER

*HYMN 5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *Picardy*
(Descant: Paul Halley, b. 1952)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION **Dr. Springsted**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Weaver*

(Organ) A-men, A - men, A - men.

*POSTLUDE Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 *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. 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)