



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015 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

From *Oratorio de Noël*, Op. 12 (1869) *Camille Saint-Saëns*
(1835-1921)

1. Prélude ("*dans le style de J. S. Bach*")

3. Air

Expectans, expectavi Dominum,
et intendit mihi.

*Patiently have I waited for the Lord, and
he heard me.*

Desirée Baxter, alto

4. Air & Chorus

Domine, ego credidi, quia tu es Christus
Filius Dei vivi. Qui in hunc mundum
venisti.

*In my heart I believe, O Lord, that you are
the Christ, Son of the living God, he who
was to come into the world.*

Marc Molomot, tenor

7. Trio

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae.
Tecum principium in splendoribus
Sanctorum.

*The beginning is with you in the day of
your power. The beginning is with you in
the splendor of the saints.*

**Katherine Wessinger, soprano; Marc Molomot, tenor;
Rod Gomez, baritone**

Noël (from *Six Noël's*, Op. 32)

Marcel Tournier
(1879-1951)

Jacqueline Kerrod, harp

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.

*HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Descant: Stephen Cleobury
(b. 1948)

Stanza 1: Solo; Stanzas 2-4: All

Christian Henderson, treble soloist

CONFESSION OF SIN (*unison*)

Beverly A. Bartlett

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

Andrew D. 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

Donald B. Wahlig

(nrsv, page 202 NT)

*HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

2. Recitative & Chorus (*Luke 2:8-14*)

There were shepherds at night in that same country abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them. And lo! An angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid at his coming. And unto them the angel said: Fear not, O ye shepherds! For, behold I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today a Savior, Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be the sign: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: Gloria in altissimis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. (*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those of good will.*)

**Katherine Wessinger, soprano; Helen Karloski, alto
Tommy Wazelle, tenor; Rod Gomez, bass**

SERMON

“All Great Things Are Born in Silence”

Dr. Springsted

*HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Descant: David Willcocks

*THE NICENE CREED

Christopher N. De La Cruz

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

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING & CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

ANTHEM

From *Oratorio de Noël*

Saint-Saëns

9. Quintet & Chorus

Consurge, Filia Sion. Alleluia. Lauda in nocte, in principio vigiliarum, Egrediatur ut splendor justus Sion, et Salvator ejus ut lampas accendatur. Alleluia.

Arise now, Daughter of Zion. Alleluia. Praise God in the night, in the first watches of the night, that Zion's true glory might be manifested, that her Savior might rise and shine before the nations. Alleluia.

10. Chorus

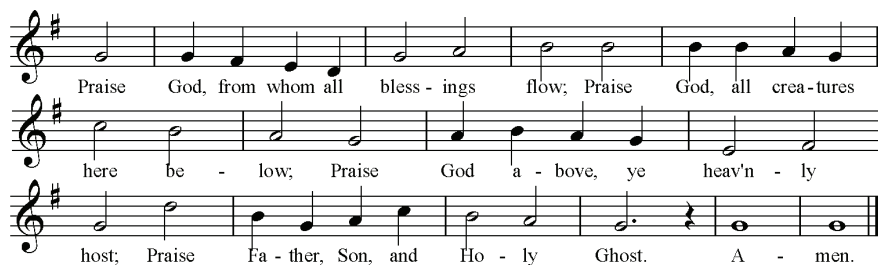
Tollite hostias, et adorate Dominum in atrio sancto ejus. Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra a facie Domini, quoniam venit. Alleluia.

Bring offerings, and adore the Lord in his holy place. Rejoice, heaven, and exult, all the earth, before the Lord, for he comes. Alleluia.

**Eliza Bagg, soprano; Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano
Desirée Baxter, alto; Tommy Wazelle, tenor; Matthew Curran, bass**

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth



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

Noël Nouvelet (1986) Stephen Jackson (b. 1951)
 arr. Andrew Henderson

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
 Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci!
 Chantons Noël pour le roi nouvelet.
 Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

L'Ange disait: 'Pasteurs partez d'ici,
 L'âme en repos et le coeur réjouï.
 En Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet.'

En Bethléem, étant tous réunis,
 Trouvent l'enfant, Joseph, Marie aussi.
 La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet.

Bientôt les rois, par l'étoile éclaircis,
 De l'Orient dont ils étaient sortis,
 A Bethléem vinrent un matinet.

*Christmas comes anew, let us sing Noel.
 Faithful people, let us shout thanks to God!
 Sing we Noel, for Christ, the newborn King.
 Christmas comes anew, let us sing Noel!*

*The angel said, "Shepherds, make haste,
 Let your spirit be calm and your heart rejoice.
 In Bethlehem you will find the little lamb."*

*Having gathered in Bethlehem,
 They found the child, with Joseph and Mary.
 The manger took the place of a cradle.*

*Soon the kings, guided by the star,
 Came from the Orient
 To Bethlehem to make their offerings.*

Voici mon Dieu,
mon sauveur Jésus Christ,
Par qui sera le prodige accompli
De nous sauveur par son sang vermeillet!

*Behold my God,
my Savior, Jesus Christ,
By whom great things will be done
To save us with his crimson blood.*

– Anonymous (French, 15th Century)

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

Noël Suisse
(from *Livre de Noël*s, c.1757)

Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694-1772)

Instrumentalists

Miranda Cuckson & Yuri Namkung, *violin*;
Louise Schulman, *viola*; Robert Burkhart, *cello*; Pawel Knapik, *bass*;
Jacqueline Kerrod, *harp*

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 2015 and pledges of support for 2016. "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 Andrew Carter, Gerre Hancock,
Gerald Near, Anthony Prower & Martin Shaw*

Sunday, December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

9 & 11:15 am

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Donald B. Wahlig, preaching

Choral Music by Harold Darke & David Willcocks

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

IN MEMORY

Pearl Gordon Bennett
Gene M. Brown

Margaret U. Carlson
John N. Charugundla
Elma and John S. Cole
Timothy J. Connor
Timothy J. Connor, Sr.

Robert J. DeBono

Florence A. Ehlinger
Virginia Evans

Doris and Arthur Gaebler
William P. Given, MD
Julia Maxwell Gordon
Robert Bruce Gordon

Gordon A. Hardy
Lillian S. Hardy
Catherine and William Hauber
The Haugh Family

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth M. and Kenneth F. Herrold | R. Neil Proffitt |
| William Hinrichs II | |
| Anna K. Hoffman | Rose and George Rabstajnek |
| Helen Biddle Holkeboer | Rudolph C. Rabstajnek |
| Anne and Harold Hudaverdi | The Thomas Rabstajnek Family |
| Christine Marie Hudaverdi | The Rev. Dr. David H. C. Read |
| Dorothy H. Hupper | Patricia Gilbert Read |
| | Marilyn Riccardi |
| Bonnie S. Johnson | Thomas Peter Riccardi, Sr. |
| Bruce F. Jones | Kate Walker Roby |
| Dorothy B. Jones | Wade Hampton Roby |
| Gerald F. Jones, MD | |
| Minerva E. Jones | Gloria Anne Baillie Schmitt |
| Rosemary S. Jones | The Rev. D. O. Smart IV |
| | Dr. Hamilton Southworth |
| Agob Keuchkerian | Esther M. and Herbert P. Stellwagen |
| Marie Keuchkerian | Lillian R. Stump |
| Dora Kleinert | Agnes and Ernest F. Sturm |
| Elmer Kleinert | The Rev. and Mrs. Birger Swenson |
| | |
| Sabina and Frank Latall | Julia E. Taschereau |
| Mr. and Mrs. L. Hudson Leathers | |
| Jean Albrecht Lucken | George Vician, Jr. |
| Daniel L. Lynch | |
| | Miriam Dwight Walker |
| Allison Bailey MacEachron | Maggie White |
| The Duer McLanahan Family | |
| Marie L. and Alexander F. Mezo | Kim T. and William E. Yamaguchi |

IN HONOR

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Ronald E. Nichols | |
| The Rev. Robert A. Nunn | Our Friends at MAPC |

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)*