



# Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

www.mapc.com

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015 at 9 and 11:15 am

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### 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, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things, embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### PRELUDE

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, BWV 648

*J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)*

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen

(from *Eleven Chorale Preludes*, Op. 122)

*Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)*

#### 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.

The Lord will give you a sign.

**People:** **A young woman is with child and shall bear a son,  
And shall name him Emmanuel.**

**Pastor:** My soul magnifies the Lord,

**People:** **And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**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*

#### CONFESSION OF SIN (*unison*)

**Andrew D. Smothers**

**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 Micah 5:2-5a **Christopher N. De La Cruz**  
 (nrsv, page 815 OT)

\*CANTICLE (Hymn 600) The Song of Mary *Morning Song*

*(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.)*

## 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

Hebrews 10:5-10  
(*nrsv, page 210 NT*)

Donald B. Wahlig

## 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

Luke 1:39-55  
(*nrsv, page 56 NT*)

Beverly A. Bartlett

## SERMON

"Mary, Revolutionary"

Dr. Springsted

## \*HYMN 48

(11:15 am)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Es ist ein 'Ros'*

## \*THE NICENE CREED

Mr. Smothers

**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. Wahlig

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

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Springsted

## WORD IN ACTION

"Christmas Joy Offering"

Mr. Wahlig

# PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11:15 am)

Mary's Magnificat (1986)

Andrew Carter  
(b. 1939)

Softly a light is stealing,  
Sweetly a maiden sings,  
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.  
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Mary her song to Jesus  
Softly, serenely sings:  
'I will love you, I will serve you,  
May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings.'

— Andrew Carter; Luke 1:46

**Eliza Bagg, soprano**

### \*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

*"...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 Angel Gabriel

Basque Carol

*arr. Anthony Prower (b. 1928)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold.  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever  
say: Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

– Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

## 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.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

\*HYMN 2                      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus                      *Hyfrydol*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION                      **Dr. Springsted**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE                      *Weaver*



\*POSTLUDE                      Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733                      *J. S. Bach*

The white poinsettia is given to the glory of God,  
in loving memory of Allison MacEachron.

**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)*