

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018 • 9 & 11:15am



Welcome to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member . . .

Whether you are new to or uncertain about this whole idea of church . . .

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Jewish or agnostic . . .

Whether you came with a friend or just wandered in accidentally . . .

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged . . .

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here and you have made us better by being present with us. In the midst of a big and busy city, we are a church that takes seriously Jesus' instructions to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives.

After worship, we gather in our Church House for fellowship, coffee, and cookies. Please join us. We think you'll find us to be a friendly and approachable group of people trying our best to live like Jesus teaches. But if you're looking for a perfect church, we're not it. We don't always get it right. Rather, we're a group of imperfect people who understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never lets go, is for everyone. Including you.

There is a place for you here. We're delighted you've joined us today.



Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Senior Pastor

Children Are Always Welcome

Your children are always welcome here at MAPC, and they are welcome to stay with you in worship. Little ones can't help but make a bit of noise from time to time. If it is your preference, however, children three and under may be taken to the Nursery on the 4th floor. The Narthex and the Children's Library are also available. Speakers provide audio of the service.

Membership and More Information

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, we periodically host a "Tell Me More About MAPC" conversation. The next gathering will be held Jan. 12, 2019, at 9 am in the Phillips Lounge. RSVPs are helpful to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

*In these busy hours before Christmas, O God, quiet our hearts.
Surely you are busier than we are, and yet you make time for us.
Help us, in this hour and beyond, to make time for you.*

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, BWV 648

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

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

We did not come to this place following a star; not yet.

We have come because we are desperate for light.

We did not come because shepherds overheard glad tidings; not yet.

We have come because we are longing to hear good news.

We did not come because a baby is asleep in a manger; not yet.

We have come because we need hope to be born in us.

Here it is easier to remember the promises of God.

And when the time is right — so very soon — Christmas will come to us.

Hymn

A Candle is Burning

Cradle Song

A can-dle is burn-ing, a can-dle of LOVE, A can-dle to
point us to hea-ven a - bove. A ba - by for Christ-mas, a
won-der-ful birth., For Je - sus is bring-ing God's love to our earth.

Text: © 1986 Sandra Dean, *used and reprinted with permission*
Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Beth and Chuck Goehring (9 am)

Lee, Meg, Timothy, and Owen Johnson (11:15 am)

*Hymn 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

** Please stand in body or in spirit. For hymns, stand when the choir stands.*

Incarnate God, forgive our clouded memory:

In the dark crevices of our hiding,

we forget how you said, “Let there be light.”

In the lonely corners of our living,

we forget how prophets fortold, “Unto us a child is born.”

In the doubt-filled moments of our hoping,

we forget how the angel said, “Nothing is impossible with God.”

Remind our hearts of the truth that has been spoken for so long. (Silent Prayer)

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 God's Grace

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise

Antioch

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1719), paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9
 Music: G. F. Handel (1742), arr. Lowell Mason (1836)

*Summary of God's Law

*Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Our Life Together

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

O Antiphon 3

John Weaver
(b. 1937)

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

Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett
Micah 5:2-5a
(OT page 815)

*Canticle (Hymn 600)

The Song of Mary

Morning Song

Lesson with the Children and Youth

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 10:5-10
(NT page 210)

Gradual

O Antiphon 7

Weaver

O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, Desire of the nations and Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

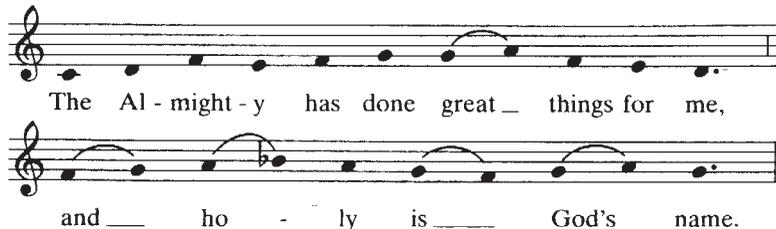
Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-55
(NT page 53)

Response to the Gospel

Magnificat

Tonus Peregrinus
Refrain: Bruce Ford



The Al - might - y has done great _ things for me,
and _ ho - ly is _ God's name.

Music from *The Hymnal 1982*, copyright 1985 The Church Pension Fund.

Katherine Wessinger, soprano

Sermon

Let There Be Love

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

————— Responding to God’s Word —————

*Hymn 48 (11:15 am)

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Es ist ein’ Ros’

*Affirmation of Faith

An Advent Affirmation

We believe that God has come to us:

**that God brought us into being,
that God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

We believe that God is coming to us:

**that God is not willing to leave us alone,
that God is coming to us as a particular human being,
that God is committed to flesh and bone just like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born to us, making our salvation complete.**

We believe that God will come to us:

**that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the ends of the earth,
that the day is coming when crying and sorrow and suffering will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless “Alleluia!”**

—*Rev. Stephen M. Fearing*

Prayers of the People

Christina A. Cosby

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

Presenting Our Offerings to God

Offertory Anthem (11:15 am)

Love Came Down at Christmas (2013)

*Philip W. J. Stopford
(b. 1977)*

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
 Love incarnate, love divine;
 Worship we our Jesus:
 But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
 Love shall be yours and love be mine,
 Love to God and to all men,
 Love for plea and gift and sign.

— Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

*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.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

Rev. Rebeca M. Heilman

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

Schubert

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

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 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.

Acclamation

. . . we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Words of Institution

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Let us keep the feast.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The bread you are served is gluten free.

The bronzed chalices contain wine; you are invited to take a sip or dip your bread into the cup.

The glass chalices contain juice; you are invited to dip your bread into the cup.

Hymn 48 (9 am)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros'

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 (11:15 am)

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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Prayer at the Conclusion of the Meal

*Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

Star of the County Down

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -
 God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

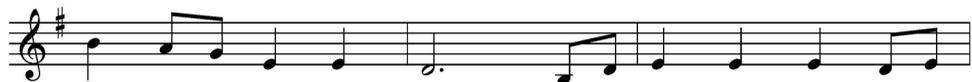


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, And the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
 Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular with refrain; Irish melody; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
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*Congregational Response

Weaver



*Postlude

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

Bach

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

1:00 pm	Church Offices Close	7th Floor
4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Tableau Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:30 pm	Instrumentalists' Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:10 pm	Christmas Eve Prelude	Sanctuary
10:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:15 am	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
11:15 am	Christmas Day Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Wednesday, December 26

6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space

Thursday, December 27

6:30 pm	NO Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
6:30 pm	Recovery Group	Library

Friday, December 28

6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
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Saturday, December 29

No Events Scheduled – Church House Closed

Let There Be Light

Advent and Christmas Worship at MAPC

December 2: Let There Be *Hope*

December 9: Let There Be *Peace*

December 16: Let There Be *Joy*

December 18: Let There Be
7 pm A Service of the Longest Night in the Dana Chapel

December 23: Let There Be *Love*

Christmas Eve: Let There Be *Light*

5 pm Family Service

10:30 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day: *Light* Among Us

10 am Lessons and Carols

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.

Ministry Team Staff

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt, *Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Associate Pastor*

Christina A. Cosby, *Director of Christian Formation*

Laura Graham, *Director of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School*

The Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman, *Pastoral Resident*

Dr. Andrew E. Henderson, *Director of Music and Organist*

Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music and Director of the NYC Children's Chorus*

Roger S. Pierce, Jr., *Director of Administration and Finance*

Chesna E. Hinkley, *Seminary Intern*

Audrey E. Webber, *Seminary Intern*

The Rev. Dr. Fred R. Anderson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. John B. Weaver, *Director of Music and Organist Emeritus*