



FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2019



THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us.

The cover of this bulletin reads, “This Is God’s House. All Are Welcome.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God *knows* we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional (very Presbyterian) ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Take a tour of the church. Have a cup of coffee with us. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy. There are tons of opportunities here to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston
Senior Pastor

If You Are New Here

Please fill out the Welcome card you will find in your pew. Place the card in the offering plate, or hand it to an usher. You may also complete the Welcome card online at fapc.org/welcome. We also invite you on a guided tour of the church, starting from the rear of the Sanctuary just after the 11 am service.

These May Help During the Service

If you would like a large-print bulletin or a hearing-enhancement device, please ask an usher. You may return these materials to the rear of the Chapel or Sanctuary after the service.

Welcoming Children

Children are always welcome in worship! Families are welcome to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary, but you may want to take advantage of the first 10 rows on the far north side, which we have equipped for families with young children. You will find children’s Bibles and children’s worship bulletins in the pews, as well as easy access to our Family Room, located just outside the Sanctuary. (See the map on the back of the bulletin for the exact location.) If you are attending worship in Kirkland Chapel, the ushers can provide a worship bag to keep your child engaged. (You may return these materials at the end of the service.) We also provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9 am until 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Learn more about our Family Ministries at fapc.org.

If You Are in Need of Prayer

Deacons (wearing white stoles) are available to pray with you after the service. Your prayers are confidential unless you request they be shared with our Congregational Care staff. You may also complete a prayer request card (available in the pews and at the entrances) and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. You may submit prayer requests online at fapc.org/prayer-requests.

Help With Parking

We have a parking arrangement with the garage at 51 W. 56th St. For \$16, you may park for up to three hours, seven days a week. Ask for discount coupons at the 55th Street reception desk.



Worship Resources Online

You will find information about future worship services (including the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday) at fapc.org/worship. Recorded sermons are available at fapc.org/sermons and via podcast on iTunes. This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at fapc.org/pray.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE • ORDER OF WORSHIP

*As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
Please **silence all electronic devices and do not take flash photos** during the service.*

PRELUDE

Variations on *In dulci jubilo*
("Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!") • *Denis Bédard (b. 1950)*
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen ("Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming")
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)
Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)
Noël grand jeu et duo • *Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)*
Trio Sonata no. 6 in G major, BWV 530: I. *Vivace*
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear • *Richard Purvis (1913–1994)*
Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella • *Keith Chapman (1945–1989)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Joyce Hansen (7:30 pm)
Elder Mary Jo Keeble (11 pm)

Luke 2:10-11
Behold I bring you tidings of great joy;
for unto you this day, in the city of David,
is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

* HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text by John Francis Wade (1711–1786)
Translated by Frederick Oakeley, Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

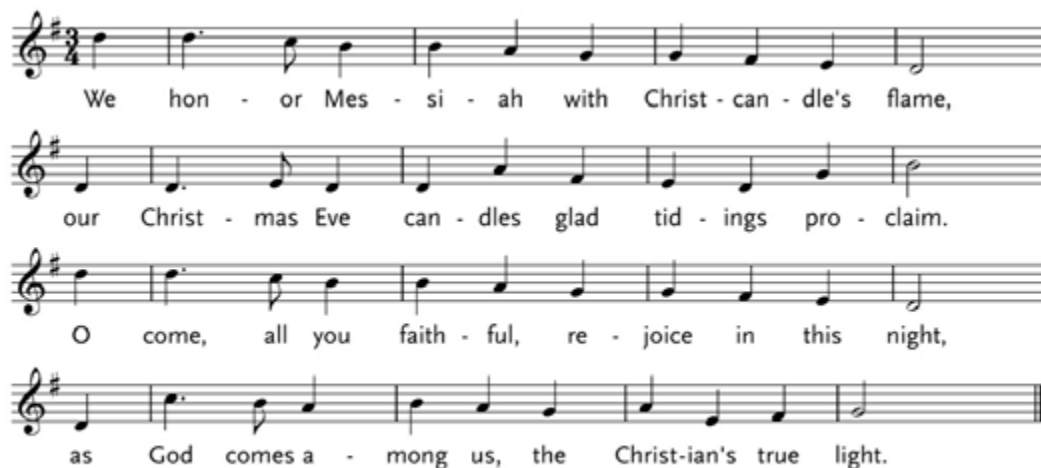
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Razafimampandra Family (7:30 pm)

Deacon Lori Lauman and Elder Andy Craven (11 pm)

SUNG RESPONSE



We hon - or Mes - si - ah with Christ - can - dle's flame,
our Christ - mas Eve can - dles glad tid - ings pro - claim.
O come, all you faith - ful, re - joice in this night,
as God comes a - mong us, the Christ-ian's true light.

Music: James R. Murray, 1887 - AWAY IN A MANGER. Text: Sandra Dean © 1986 Sandra Dean.
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WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*"...and forgive us our debts..."*)

INVITATORY CAROL

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come • *Paul Manz (1919–2009), Text: Revelation 22*

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

THE FIRST LESSON

The Prophet Foretells the Coming of the Savior • Isaiah 9:2-7

Morgan King, M.Div. (7:30 pm)

The Rev. Kate Dunn (11 pm)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

I Wonder as I Wander • *Traditional, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.
For poor ornery people like you and like I:
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;
Or all of God's angels in heav'n to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King.

THE SECOND LESSON

The Peace That Christ Will Bring Is Foreshown • Isaiah 11:1-6

Elder Ken Henderson (7:30 pm)

Deacon Janine Schindler (11 pm)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live 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.

CAROL

A Spotless Rose • *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Text: Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen (14th century), paraphrased by Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

THE THIRD LESSON

The Angel Gabriel Salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary • Luke 1:26-38

The Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell (7:30 pm)

Bob Schindler (11 pm)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

Fair in Face • *Healey Willan (1880–1968)*

Text from Responsaries from an Office of Our Lady (8th century)

Fair in face, but fairer far in thy faith,
Blessed art thou, O Virgin Mary;
Despising the world, thou shalt rejoice with the angels:
Pray thou for us all.

O holy and spotless maidenhood,
I wot not how to praise thee.
Pray thou for us all.

THE FOURTH LESSON

The Coming of the True Light • John 1:6-14

Alex Aiello (7:30 pm)

Deacon John Wyatt (11 pm)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

Sussex Carol • *Traditional, arr. David Willcocks (b. 1919)*

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen."

THE FIFTH LESSON

St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus • Luke 2:1-7

Elder Suzan Habachy (7:30 pm)

Elder Brenda Berkman (11 pm)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

The Star-Song • *Jonathan Dove (b. 1955), Text by Robert Herrick (1591–1674)*

Tell us, thou clear and heavenly tongue,
Where is the Babe but lately sprung?
Lies he the lily-banks among?

Or say, if this new Birth of ours,
Sleeps, laid within some ark of flowers,
Spangled with dew-light; thou canst clear
All doubts, and manifest the where.

Declare to us, bright star, if we shall seek
Him in the morning's blushing cheek,
Or search the beds of spices through,
To find him out?

Star: No, this ye need not do;
But only come and see him rest
A Princely Babe in's mother's breast.

Choir: He's seen! he's seen! Why then around
Let's kiss the sweet and holy ground;
And all rejoice that we have found
A King before conception crown'd.

Come then, come then, and let us bring
Unto our pretty Twelfth-tide King,
Each one his several offering;

And when night comes, we'll give him wassailing;
And that his treble honours may be seen,
We'll choose him King, and make his mother Queen.

THE SIXTH LESSON

The Shepherds Go to the Manger • Luke 2:8-16

The Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell (7:30 pm)

The Rev. Kate Dunn (11 pm)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL

The Shepherd's Carol • *Bob Chilcott (b. 1955), Text: Anonymous*

We stood on the hills, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
The air so still,
Silence more lovely than music
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
Shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,
It seemed to us then
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves
We give to your son.

* HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

"O Holy Night"

* CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

The Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell
(7:30 pm)

The Rev. Kate Dunn (11 pm)

One: Light looked down and saw darkness.

All: "I will go there," said Light.

One: Peace looked down and saw war.

All: "I will go there," said Peace.

One: Love looked down and saw hatred.

All: "I will go there," said Love.

One: So he, the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace, the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE OFFERING

You may text your offering to 646.491.8331

OFFERTORY CAROL

O Holy Night • *Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)*

Arr. John Rutter, text by Cappeau de Roquemaure (1808–1877)

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Your King! Before him bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy Name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 134 • Joy to the World

THE SEVENTH LESSON

St. John Unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation • John 1:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.

* HYMN 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Chorale Fantasy on *In dulci jubilo*
("Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"), BWV 729
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

The ministry of music this evening is offered by: The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir
Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries*
Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* • Clayton Kahler Brown, *Baritone*
Claire Myers McCormick, *Soprano* • Rachel Mikol, *Soprano*

FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

The clergy and staff of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
wish you and those you love a merry Christmas!

We invite you back in January for a month of celebrated
preachers & provocative conversations.

On Sunday, Jan. 5, we welcome the Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen,
senior pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis,
to our pulpit for the first time.

On Sunday, Jan. 12, philosopher and best-selling author
Dr. James K.A. Smith will lead a discussion of his newest book,
*On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real-World Spirituality for Restless
Hearts*, at 9:30 am. Dr. Smith will be our guest preacher at 11 am.

And on **Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday (Jan. 19)**, we will convene a
panel to consider how King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
can guide prison reform efforts today. Our guest preacher that
morning is the Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, executive presbyter
of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

Go to fapc.org for details on all of these events.
We hope to see you there!

Building Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8 am to 6 pm • Tuesday: 8 am to 9 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 1 pm • Sunday: 8 am to 2:30 pm



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