

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2021



Johannes W.H. van der Bijl, *Ethiopian Nativity Icon*, 2013

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. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy or someone at our Welcome Table. We have tons of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston
Senior Pastor

Welcome

We’d love to connect! Please scan the QR code or fill out a Connect Card that you will find in your pew. You can fill it out online, or place the card into an offering plate, hand it to an usher, or drop it off at the Welcome Table (inside the Fifth Avenue entrance.) The folks at the Welcome Table can provide you with information about our ministries and programs. Our Sanctuary Doors open at 10 am every Sunday.

These May Help During the Service

If you would like a large-print bulletin please ask an usher.

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. 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.

Worship Resources Online

Head to fapc.org for information about future worship services. Our weekly video service, Light, Leaven & Salt, is available throughout the week at fapc.org/worship. This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at fapc.org/pray.

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.



In response to the Omicron variant of Covid-19, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church requires that **all worshippers (five years old and up) be fully vaccinated and present proof of vaccination (at least two shots and at least fourteen days away from the second shot).**

We encourage you to follow Christ’s command: “Love Your Neighbor!” Manifest your love by: **Wearing a mask, distancing, and getting your jab or booster (as directed by your doctor)!**

CHRISTMAS EVE • 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.*

We ask that you properly wear a mask at all times.

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)
Prelude on *Quem Pastores* • Helmut Walcha (1907–1991)
Trio Sonata no. 6 in G major, BWV 530: I. Vivace
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
The Holy Boy • John Ireland (1879–1962)
Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella • Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder John Wyatt (7:30 pm)
Deacon Darby Blaker (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!

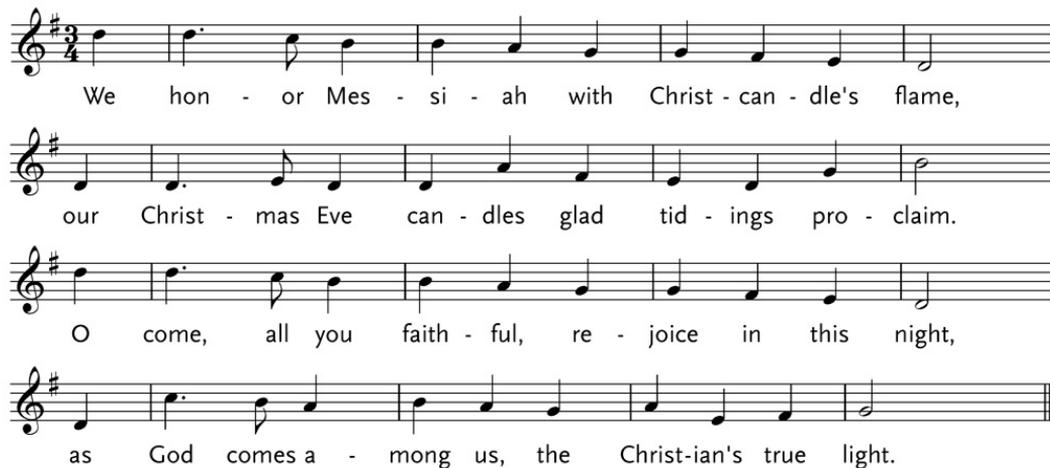
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Salome Noufele and Josiane Noufele (7:30 pm)

Ryan Speed, Madeline Carwile and Chad Schepp, Fifth Avenue Young Adults Ministry (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 Rev. Sarah A. Speed

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.**

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

Elder John Wyatt (7:30 pm)

Deacon Janine Schindler (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 Counselor, 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

Veiled in Darkness · Glenn Rudolph (b. 1951)

Veiled in darkness Judah lay, waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night streamed a flood of glorious light,
Heavenly voices chanted then, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Sill the earth in darkness lies, up from death's dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief, prayers of those who seek relief;
Now our darkness pierce again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Light of light, we humbly pray, shine upon thy world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night, fill our souls with love and light,
Send thy blessed words again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

THE SECOND LESSON

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

Elder Kathy Henderson (7:30 pm)

The Rev. Werner Ramirez (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

The Angel Gabriel · *Traditional, arr. Edgar Pettman (1865–1943)*

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 know 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!

THE THIRD LESSON

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

Deacon Hannah Bell (7:30 pm)

Farrell Smith (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.

* HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

THE FOURTH LESSON

The Coming of the True Light · John 1:6-14
The Rev. Dr. Jonah So (7:30 pm)
Robert Schindler (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

A Babe Is Born · *William Mathias (1934–1992)*
Text: Anonymous, 15th century

A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni creator Spiritus (Come creating spirit).

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas (O Trinity of blessed light).

There came three kings out of the east,
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine (From lands that see the sun rise).

The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine (Glory to you, Lord).

A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni creator Spiritus,
O lux beata Trinitas,
A solis ortus cardine,
Gloria tibi Domine.
Noel!

THE FIFTH LESSON

St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus · Luke 2:1-7
Elder Erica Moffett, Clerk of Session (7:30 pm)
Deacon Darby Blaker (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

Ding Dong! Merrily on High · *Traditional, arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)*
Text by G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel-singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

THE SIXTH LESSON

The Shepherds Go to the Manger · Luke 2:8-16
The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

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

All Bells in Paradise · *John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Deep in the cold of winter,
Darkness and silence were everywhere;
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness
A wonderful sound, a wonderful sound to hear:

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring:
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,
Doubting I asked what this sign might be:
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,
A marvelous sight, a marvelous sight to see.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.

He comes down in peace, a child in humility,
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,
Gold, incense and myrrh.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring:
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sweetly sing.

* HYMN 119 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

HOMILY **“We are... Those Who Dream”**
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

* CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So (7:30 pm) One: Light looked down and saw darkness.
The Rev. Werner Ramirez (11 pm) 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.**

CALL TO GIVE

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

Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* · Monica Dewey, *Sopranos*

The clergy and staff of
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian
Church wish you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday On Jan. 16 we welcome the Rev. Dr.
Bryan Blount, President and Professor of New Testament at Union
Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC.

Fifth Avenue Courageous Conversations Also on Jan. 16 at 9:30 am
join the Anti-Racism Response Team (ARRT) as they share this year's
focus and provide details for a month long social action challenge.
Register at fapc.org/events.

We hope to see you there!



FAPCNYC



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FAPC.ORG/LIVE

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