

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2022



Sandro Botticelli, *The Mystical Nativity*, c. 1500–1501

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, gathered in the Sanctuary and online, 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 lots 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

New to Fifth Avenue?

Please fill out the welcome card you will find in your pew. Place the card in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or drop it off at the Welcome Table (inside the Fifth Avenue entrance). You may also complete the welcome form online at fapc.org/welcome. Our friends at the Welcome Table can provide you with information about our ministries, programs and volunteer opportunities.

Large-Print Bulletins

Please speak with an usher if you would like to use a large-print bulletin to follow the service.

Families with Children

Children are always welcome in worship! Families are free 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, 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 to 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

Worship Resources Online

A replay of today’s service will be available this afternoon at fapc.org/playback. This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at fapc.org/pray. Details about the upcoming service each week can be found at fapc.org/this-sunday. For information about future worship services, visit fapc.org/worship.

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. Please provide your mobile phone number or an email address to the staff person at the 55th Street reception desk. You will receive a QR code to use at the garage. (The garage no longer provides physical validation stickers.)

We recommend that all who worship with us in person be vaccinated (and boosted) against Covid-19. If you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms, please stay home and worship with us via livestream. You will find the livestream service every week at fapc.org/live.



We provide mask-required and mask-optional seating areas in the Sanctuary.
Please ask an usher if you have questions.

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.*

PRELUDE

Carillon de Westminster • Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Variations on The Huron Carol • Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

Chorale Prelude on In dulci jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen ("Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming")

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Prelude on Quem pastores • Helmut Walcha (1907–1991)

Cradle Song • Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Berceuse sur le nom de SWANN • George Baker (b. 1951)

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella • Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Jeanne Lehman

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!

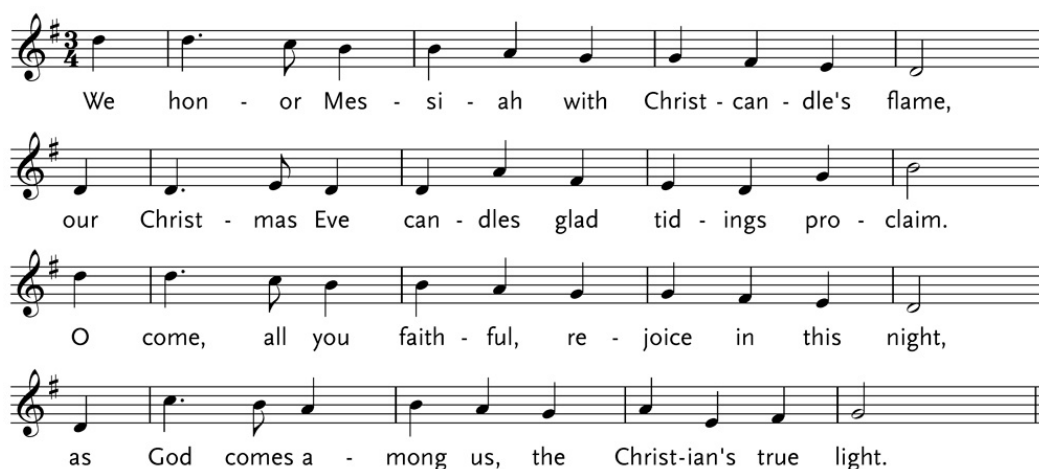
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

April Fellers (7:30 pm)

Elder Matt Roush (11 pm)

SUNG RESPONSE



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

**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

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter (b. 1945), Text: A Christmas Carol, by Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
For to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden?
Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the underearth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
For to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?

THE FIRST LESSON

God's Promised Salvation • Isaiah 2:2-5 (*The Message*)

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

There's a day coming
when the mountain of God's House
Will be The Mountain—
solid, towering over all mountains.
All nations will river toward it,
people from all over set out for it.
They'll say, "Come,
let's climb God's Mountain,
go to the House of the God of Jacob.
God will show us the way
so we can live the way we're made."
Zion's the source of the revelation.
God's Message comes from Jerusalem.
God will settle things fairly between nations.
God will make things right between many peoples.
They'll turn their swords into shovels,
their spears into hoes.
No more will nation fight nation;
they won't play war anymore.

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 SECOND LESSON

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

Deacon Chad Schepp (7:30 pm)

Elder Martha Van Hise (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

There Is no Rose of such Virtue • *Jonathan Lane (b. 1958)*

Text: Anonymous (15th century)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space,
Res miranda (Wondrous thing).

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pares forma (Of the same form).

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus (Let us rejoice).

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus (Let us follow).

THE THIRD LESSON

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

The Rev. Werner Ramirez (7:30 pm)

Ashley Gonzalez, Director of Engagement (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

Gabriel's Message • *Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)*

Text by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)

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 Emmanuel, 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, Emmanuel 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!*

* HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

THE FOURTH LESSON

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

Elder Mary Jo Keeble (7:30 pm)

Deacon Janine 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

Novo profusi gaudio • Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

Text: Anonymous (15th century)

Refrain

*Novo profusi gaudio,
Benedicamus Domino.*

*Omnes gentes, plaudite,
Car notre Saviour est né;
Over all blessed he be,
Rex Alpha et O.*

Refrain

*A solis ortus cardine,
Comme le monde est long et lé,
All mankind maketh glee,
Angeli canunt Deo.*

Refrain

*Enixa est puerpera,
Que Saint Esprit en engrossa;
Blessed be time that she said ya,
Gabriele nuncio.*

Refrain

*Ex illibata virgine,
Est nascu le Roi de Majesté;
The hirds him see in low degree,
Jacentem in presepio.*

*Gloria tibi, Domine,
Fontaine de grâce et de pitié;
Of all thy goodness we thank thee;
Benedicamus Domino.*

Refrain

Refrain

News of great joy,
Let us bless the Lord.

All people, clap your hands,
For our Savior is born;
Blessed is he over all,
King, first and last.

Refrain

From the rising of the sun,
As the world is long and wide,
All humanity rejoices,
The angels sing to God.

Refrain

She brings forth a son,
Whom the Holy Spirit enlarged,
Blessed be the time that she said “yes,”
Gabriel the messenger.

Refrain

From the undefiled virgin,
Born is the King of Majesty,
The household sees his humble circumstances,
Lying in a manger.

Glory to you, Lord,
Fount of grace and mercy;
We thank you for all thy goodness;
Let us bless the Lord.

Refrain

THE FIFTH LESSON

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

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So (7:30 pm)

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed (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

Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King • *Moses Hogan (1957–2003)*

Text: “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” with additional lyrics by Moses Hogan

What will we call that pretty little baby?

Baby born in Bethlehem.

What will we call that pretty little baby?

Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Where was he born, this pretty little baby?

Down in a lowly manger:

Where his birth was in a stable.

Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Born this night, the Son of Mary:

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace.

Glory to the newborn King.

Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

Children, go and tell it on the mountain, Lord,

Over the hills and everywhere.

Why don't you go tell it on the mountain, Lord,

That Jesus Christ is born.

See the newborn baby.

Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King...

All praise to the newborn King, we're singin'...

Over hill and mountain, we're singin'...

Hail, the new King, we're singin'...

We're singin': Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

THE SIXTH LESSON

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

Elder Salome Noufele (7:30 pm)

Robert Schindler (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

My Lord Has Come • *Will Todd (b. 1970)*

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels;
No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.

His love will hold me, his love will cherish me,
Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

* HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 4-6

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.

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.

HOMILY

“Prince of Peace”

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

* CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So (7:30 pm)

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed (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.

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY CAROL

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

Arr. John Rutter, text by Cappeau de Roquemauve (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

The Rev. Werner Ramirez (7:30 pm)

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed (11 pm)

* 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* • Claire Myers McCormick and Chelsea Helm, *Sopranos*

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we enter 2023, we invite you back
for three special worship services.

Sunday, Jan. 1 Celebrate the New Year with your church family! At Breakfast Church we will worship at table in Bonnell Hall, starting at 11 am. RSVP to fapc.org/breakfastchurch so we are sure to prepare enough food!

Sunday, Jan. 8 The Rev. Sarah A. Speed will lead “Stories and Star Words,” our celebration of the Epiphany. The service will begin at 11 am in the Sanctuary and on livestream.

Sunday, Jan. 15 The Rev. Dr. Keri Day, associate professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, is our guest preacher as we honor the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary and on livestream.

See fapc.org for our 2023 worship calendar
and other events in the new year!



FAPCNYC



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FAPC.ORG/LIVE

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