

# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2023



Lalo Garcia, *Creadora del Luz*, 2009

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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](http://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 or hymnal to follow the service.

### ➔ Families with Children

Children are always welcome! You will find children’s Bibles in the first 10 rows of pews on the far north side of the Sanctuary (to the right when looking down the aisle). Ushers can also provide children’s bulletins and worship bags. If you need to leave the service with your child, the ushers can direct you to the nearest changing table and livestream monitor. Every Sunday, we provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. There is Sunday school for children in preschool through 5th grade at 9:30 am and Children’s Church for children in preschool through 2nd grade at 11:15 am.

### ➔ Worship Resources Online

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

## 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

*Variations on In dulci jubilo*  
 (“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”) • Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

*La Nativité du Seigneur* (“The Nativity of the Lord”):  
III Desseins éternels (“Eternal Designs”)  
Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

*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)

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

Christmas Cradle Song • Alfred Hollins (1865–1942)

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

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

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Janeen Sarlin (7:30 pm)  
Elder Patrick Obeng-Frimpong  
(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!

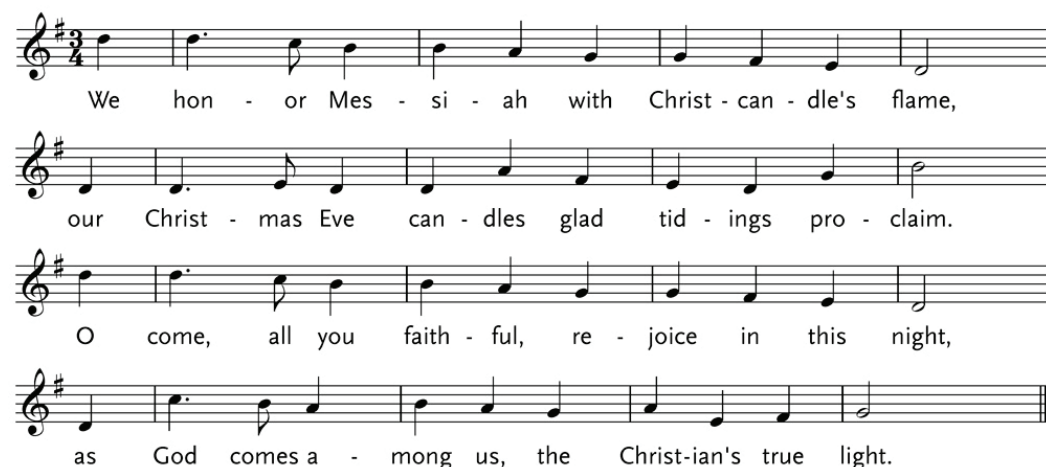


## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Kirsten, Greg, Alexandra, Christopher, and Jean Aiello (7:30 pm)

Janine and Bob Schindler (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

**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

The Huron Carol • Traditional French Canadian Carol, arr. Robert B. Anderson

Text by J.E. Middleton (1872–1960)

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled.  
The Mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead.  
Before their light the stars grew dim  
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
*In excelsis Gloria.*

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found.  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
*In excelsis Gloria.*

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,  
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy  
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
*In excelsis Gloria.*

### THE FIRST LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior • Isaiah 9:2-7

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### CAROL

*A Patre Unigenitus* • Carl Rütli (b. 1949), Text: Anonymous, 15th century  
Adapted and translated by Hugh Keyte and Andrew Parrott

*A Patre Unigenitus* (The Only-begotten of the Father)  
Is through a maiden come to us.  
Sing we of him and say "Welcome!  
*Veni Redemptor gentium* (Come, Redeemer of the nations)."

*Agnoscat omne seculum* (Let every age perceive [that])  
A bright star made three kings to come  
Him for to seek with their presents,  
*Verbum supernum prodiens* (The high Word forthcoming).

*A solis ortus cardine* (From the rising of the sun)  
So mighty a lord is none as he,  
And to our kind he hath him knit,  
*Adam parens quod polluit* (Which our father Adam defiled).

Make we joy now in this fest  
*In quo Christus natus est* (In which Christ is born).  
Make we joy now in this fest  
*In quo Christus natus est.*

*Maria ventre concepit* (Mary conceived in her womb),  
The Holy Ghost was aye her with.  
In her in Bethl'em born he is,  
*Consors Paterni luminis* (Sharing in the light of his Father).

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Make we joy now in this fest  
*In quo Christus natus est* (In which Christ is born).  
Make we joy now in this fest  
*In quo Christus natus est.*  
*O Lux beata Trinitas* (O Light of the Holy Trinity)!  
He lay between an ox and ass,  
Beside his mother, maiden free:  
*Gloria tibi Domine* (Glory to thee, O Lord)!

## THE SECOND LESSON

The Peace That Christ Will Bring Is Foreshown • Isaiah 11:1-6  
*Elder Janeen Sarlin (7:30 pm)*  
*Elder Patrick Obeng-Frimpong (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 Tender Shoot • *Kerensa Briggs (b.1991)*  
*Text: German Carol, 15th century, trans. William Bartholomew (1793–1867)*

A tender shoot hath started  
Up from a root of grave,  
As ancient seers imparted,  
From Jesse's holy race,  
It blooms without a blight,  
Blossoms in the cold bleak winter,  
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us  
From Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us  
The branch of which we sing;  
Our God of endless might  
Gave her this child to save us,  
Thus turning darkness into light.

## THE THIRD LESSON

The Angel Gabriel Salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary • Luke 1:26-38  
*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

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

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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

Annunciation Carol • *Robert Lehman (b.1960), Text: Anonymous, 15th-century English*

*Nova, nova, nova, nova, Ave fit ex Eva.*  
(News! News! News! News!)  
'Ave' has been made from 'Eve'!)

Gabriel of high degree,  
He was sent from Trinity,  
To Nazareth of Galilee;  
*Nova, nova, nova, nova,*  
*Ave fit ex Eva.*

He met a maiden in that place,  
There he knelt before her face,  
And said, "Hail Mary, full of grace."  
*Nova, nova, nova, nova,*  
*Ave fit ex Eva.*

When the maiden heard his song,  
She was filled with troubles strong,  
And feared that she had done a wrong.  
*Nova, nova, nova, nova,*  
*Ave fit ex Eva.*

Then said the angel, "Fear not thou,  
For thou shalt conceive in great virtue  
The Savior thou shalt call Jesu."  
*Nova, nova, nova, nova,*  
*Ave fit ex Eva.*

"There are yet but six months gone  
Since Elizabeth conceived John  
To be the Herald of God's Son;"  
*Nova, nova, nova, nova,*  
*Ave fit ex Eva.*

Then said the maiden, "Verily,  
I am thy servant right truly,  
*Ecce ancilla Domini.*"  
(Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.)  
*Nova, nova, nova, nova,*  
*Ave fit ex Eva.*

## THE FOURTH LESSON

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

*The Rev. Sarah A. Speed (7:30 pm)*

*The Rev. Dr. Jonah So (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

*Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom (7:30 pm)*

*Janine Schindler (11 pm)*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This registration occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to be registered, everyone to their own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David. Joseph 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 brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

## CAROL

*Noe! Noe! • Traditional French Carol, arr. Mack Wilberg (b.1955)*

*Text by David Warner*

Shepherds, rise look up and see  
New light yonder breaking,  
Brighter than the noonday sun,  
All your sheep awaking.  
Wonder, whisper, "Ah, Noe!"  
Christ is born this holy day!  
He is come to you,  
Lowly shepherds, true!  
He is come unto you,  
Morning Star and New Day!  
Wonder, whisper, "Ah, Noe!"

Shepherds, turn your eyes and see  
In the manger, sleeping,  
Prince of Peace and Heav'nly King,  
In his mother's keeping.  
Worship him who brings Noe,  
He who turns the night to day!  
He is come to you,  
Lowly shepherds, true!  
He is come unto you,  
Morning Star and New Day!  
Worship him who brings Noe!

Shepherds, look about and see  
In the darkness pining  
All God's children long to hear  
Of the new Light shining.  
Witness of the true Noe!  
Share glad tidings of this day!  
He is come to you,  
Lowly shepherds, true!  
He is come unto you,  
Morning Star and New Day!  
Witness of the true Noe!

Shepherds, run to us and see  
Here we are awaiting thee.  
Let your voices ring for 'aye  
Christ is born! Noe! Noe!

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## THE SIXTH LESSON

The Shepherds Go to the Manger • Luke 2:8-14

*The Rev. Sarah A. Speed (7:30 pm)*

*Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom (11 pm)*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward all.”

## CAROL

Lully, Lulla, Lullay • *Philip Stopford (b.1977)*

*Text: Coventry Carol, 16th century*

*Refrain*

*Lully lulla, lully lulla,*

*By by, lully lullay.*

*Lully lulla, thou little tiny child,*

*By by, lully lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do

For to preserve this day

This poor youngling for whom we sing,

“By by, lully, lullay”?

*Refrain*

Herod the king, in his raging,

Chargèd he hath this day

His men of might in his own sight

All young children to slay.

*Refrain*

That woe is me, poor child, for thee

And ever morn and may

For thy parting neither say nor sing,

“By by, lully, lullay.”

*Refrain*

\* HYMN 119

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

HOMILY

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston*

**“Christmas at God’s House”**

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\* CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

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 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.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

\* 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 did not overcome it.

\* 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)

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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* • Rachel Mikol and Brittany Hewitt, *Sopranos*

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## The clergy and staff of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church wish you a Merry Christmas!

As we enter 2024, we invite you back for worship.

**Monday, December 25 – Tuesday, December 26** Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.

**Sunday, December 31** The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike will lead us into the New Year as she concludes our Advent Sermon series with "Christmas at Simeon's House." The service will begin at 11 am in the Sanctuary and on livestream.

**Sunday, January 7** The Rev. Werner Ramirez will lead our celebration of Epiphany. Chapel Church will resume at 9:30 am in Jones Auditorium. Our 11 am worship service will be in the Sanctuary and on livestream.

**Sunday, January 14** The Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter of National Capital Presbytery, is our guest preacher as we honor the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Molina-Moore will launch the winter's "Beloved Community" sermon series. Join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary and on livestream.

See [fapc.org](http://fapc.org) for our 2024 worship calendar and other events in the new year!

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## Beloved Community

### *The Winter 2024 Sermon Series*

Being in fellowship, sharing day-to-day life with our neighbors, feels increasingly difficult in this divisive world. And yet, this is precisely what Christ calls us to do! To respond to our Lord's challenge, the 2024 Winter Sermon Series at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church will explore the nature of Christian community.

We are going to do this through two lenses. We are going to study Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for "Beloved Community" and we are going to work our way through the Apostle Paul's description of healthy Christian community as found in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Romans. Please join us for a conversation that is mission critical for our church and our country.

*The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of humankind.*  
—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.





## Kate Bowler

### The Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture

January 31, 7 pm • Sanctuary & Livestream

Tickets are going fast! *New York Times* best-selling author, historian and podcast host Kate Bowler will deliver the sixth Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture on Wednesday, January 31, at 7 pm.

Bowler was born in London and grew up in Winnipeg, Canada. She received her bachelor of arts degree at Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota, and her master of arts in religion at Yale Divinity School. She completed her PhD at Duke University, where her dissertation research led to her first bestselling book, *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

“Kate Bowler pairs rich theological reflection with savvy cultural analysis,” says Senior Pastor Scott Black Johnston. “She is an honest, joyful, insightful theologian. She has many fans among young adults in the church. She has all the qualities that make her a perfect fit for this lectureship.”

Bowler is the author of six books ranging from history and memoir to devotionals and blessings. She is an associate professor of American religious history at Duke Divinity School and hosts the popular podcast *Everything Happens*. Her latest book, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs & In-Betweens* will be released in January.

To secure a ticket, head to [fapc.org/gotto](https://fapc.org/gotto). For more information, please email Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom ([gottolecture@fapc.org](mailto:gottolecture@fapc.org)).

## About the Anita & Antonio Gotto Lecture Series

The Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture Series offers compelling talks and presentations by renowned theologians and preachers, writers and scholars, across a range of faith traditions and academic disciplines.

Inaugurated in October 2018, the Gotto Lecture Series is made possible through a generous contribution from Anita and Antonio Gotto, longtime members of the congregation.

Anita and Antonio Gotto are natives of Nashville, Tennessee, where they attended Vanderbilt University. They lived in Houston for 25 years, where they raised their family. Tony Gotto was chair of internal medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine. Anita, a former teacher, served on a number of community boards. The Gottos moved to New York in 1997 when Tony became the dean of Weill Cornell Medical College. They joined Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1998, where Tony has served on the Board of Trustees and Anita on the Session.

### Previous Gotto Lectures

#### James McBride

The acclaimed novelist, screenwriter and musician James McBride delivered the fifth-annual Gotto lecture in 2022. His conversation with the audience, *Race, ‘Fiction’ and Faith*, touched on politics, popular culture and the contemporary church. The author of seven books, McBride is the recipient of the National Humanities Medal and the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, among other honors.

#### The Rev. Canon Esau McCaulley, PhD

In 2021, The Rev. Canon Esau McCaulley, PhD delivered our fourth-annual Gotto lecture: *Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy: The Prophetic Witness of the Black Church*. A theologian, author and priest, Rev. McCaulley is renowned for his research and writing on Pauline theology, African American Biblical interpretation and articulating a Christian theology of justice in the public square.

#### Emma Green

In 2020, Emma Green, then a religion and politics writer for *The Atlantic*, delivered our third-annual Gotto lecture: *Red, Fight, and Blue: How Religious America Became So Divided*. Green has spent nearly a decade covering religious communities at moments of tension and change.

#### David Brooks

The *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author David Brooks headlined the 2019 Gotto Lecture Series. In addition to his work as a columnist and commentator, Brooks is the author of four books, including *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life* (2019).

#### Dr. Jonathan Haidt

Our inaugural speaker was the moral psychologist and best-selling author Dr. Jonathan Haidt. Dr. Haidt is the Thomas Cooley Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University’s Stern School of Business. He is the author of three books including *The Coddling of the American Mind* (with Greg Lukianoff, 2018).



## Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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### Building Hours

Monday,  
Wednesday – Friday  
9 am – 6 pm

Tuesday  
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8 am – 2:30 pm



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