


Adult Sunday School	
Adventures in Prayer	Today, 10:20 a.m., Lincoln Chapel
Maybe you are new to prayer. Maybe prayer is as natural to you as breathing. This class, meeting in the Lincoln Chapel at 10:20 a.m., is for everyone and anyone who takes prayer seriously. We learn together and pray together. All questions, joys and concerns are welcome. Come when you can.	
An Advent Odyssey	Today, 10:00 a.m., Room 511
The word Advent comes from the Latin "to come to". The Advent and Christmas stories in Luke and Matthew are full of travel: Of the coming of the angel to Mary; of the visit of Mary to Elizabeth; of the hopeful trip of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; of the arrival of the Christ child; of the approach of the shepherds and magi; of the desperate journey of the new family to Egypt. Gwenn Gebhard, Tom Dunlap and Paul Dornan will bring the power and insight of poetry to our own odyssey to the manger and beyond. Come and read with us!	

Preaching Schedule	
December 27	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 3	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 10	Rev. Alice Rose Tewell

11:00 a.m.	
Candle Lighters	Hiemstra-Hill Family
Liturgist	Jenean McKay
Tour Guide	Paul Dornan
Worship Play	Rev. Alice Rose Tewell and Dawn Hill

Counters	
December 20	Dan Stokes and ShuXian McKenna
December 29	Ruth and Fritz von Fleckenstein

	Ministers:	The Entire Congregation
	Pastor:	Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
	Associate Pastor:	Alice Rose Tewell, M. Div.
	Director of Music:	Stanley P. Engebretson, D.M.A.
	Parish Associate for Visitation:	Ann Rose Davie, M. Div.
	Director of Planned Giving:	Catherine Schultheis, B.A., Chr.Ed.
	Parish Associates:	Beth Braxton, M. Div., MRE, D. Min. J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A. Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D. Linda LeSourd Lader, M. Div.
	Director of Dance:	Kathryn Sparks, M.T.S.
	Young Adult Volunteer:	Angela Williams; Community Club and Radcliffe Room

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

"An inclusive, justice-seeking church"

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Rev. Beth Braxton: revbeth.braxton@gmail.com

Rev. Ann Davie: annrosedavie@gmail.com

Rev. Linda LeSourd Lader: Linda.Lader@gmail.com

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Cheria Mcmillan, Office Associate: cheria.mcmillan@nyapc.org

Angela Williams, Young Adult Volunteer: angela.williams@nyapc.org

Opportunities for Service

7-2-9 Club – Enjoy a Wednesday evening (yes, from 7 to 9 p.m.), until June, with guests recovering from mental illness. There are games, entertainment, refreshments and time for making friends. Contact Spence Gibbins, spencergib@aol.com

Community Club – A one-with-one tutoring and mentoring program, for DC public and charter school students (grades 7-12), meets at the church on Thursday nights, during the school year. Adult volunteers are needed! Please contact Tom Karr and Shamika Bradley at directors@communityclub.org or go to www.communityclub.org for more information.

Food for the Hungry – Non-perishable food donations are needed by the Capital Area Food Bank, the large nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington area. Please place your donations in the baskets located at the rear of the Sanctuary or at the front desk.

New York Avenue Foundation – The NYAF mission is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout Washington, DC. Annually it solicits proposals and awards grants to grassroots non-profits, which further that mission. A volunteer Board of Trustees conducts the work of NYAF. If you are interested in learning more or participating in the NYAF mission, contact Brian Schimming, nyavefoundation@gmail.com

Radcliffe Room Ministry – Come join our homeless guests, Sundays, 8:15-9:45 a.m., for hymn singing, refreshments and socializing. Donations of umbrellas, rain gear, clothing, toiletries, and transportation money are needed. Contact Eleanor Robins, robinseleanor@hotmail.com

The Peace Candle – Visitors are invited to take a Peace Candle home to their congregations. Candles are at the back, right side, of the sanctuary. Please sign the note card there, so we may know who you are. For more information about the Peace and Justice Committee activities, contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net

Triangle Park Committee – Working with the National Park Service to ensure maintenance and oversee the flower and plant beds along the church wall, we meet 4-6 times a year, conduct business via email, and schedule work days as needed. Contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net Beth DuMez, bethdumez@erols.com or Barry Tindall, barrytindall@verizon.net

NYAPC's Young Adults – For more information about Sunday brunches, Faith on Tap, Bible study, and other fellowship or service activities (or to be added to the e-mail list), contact Richard Snyder (snyder.richard@gmail.com) or Benno Lauer (benno.lauer@gmail.com)

Annual Stewardship - Each of the ministries described on this page, as well as everything else that happens at this church, is supported in a significant way by Annual Stewardship giving. Annual Stewardship is the act of making a financial pledge to the church operating budget for a year and completing that pledge. It is a deep personal and congregational theological act, and it is essential to the worship, community, and mission of this church! Members, affiliates, and friends are all invited to participate in Annual Stewardship. Please contact Jan Maheras, the church accountant, Laura Asiala, the chair of the Annual Stewardship Committee, or Rev. Roger Gench, the Senior Pastor, for more information, questions, or to make your pledge.

We are in need of volunteers to help make NYAPC a welcoming place for our visitors and members by staffing the welcome table in the narthex before and after services. Welcome table volunteers arrive about 20-30 minutes before a Sunday service to greet worshipers and then hang out for about 15-20 minutes after the service to chat with visitors and members during coffee time. For more details visit <http://bit.ly/1OFPh6r>. If you are interested in signing up for one (or more!) services please contact Alison Kootstra Nowak at amkootstra@gmail.com or Paul Dornan at pbdornanp@aol.com.



Celebration of Worship

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomes all people into community, worship, service and leadership.

December 20, 2015

11 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”
Johannes Brahms

Introit

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Hyfrydol

*Lincoln Chimes

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 89: 1-4

*The Lighting of Advent Candles

Hiemstra-Hill Family

Leader: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy. God speaks in many ways: through dreams, visions, new ideas, and the kicking of a child not yet born, a child to be born in Bethlehem of Judah. We light our fourth candle, as a sign of God's love, shining in the world through people past and present.

All: I will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever; Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: God said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

All: Living Christ, incarnate amongst us all, give us hope to follow You, peace to put our trust in You, joy to adore You, and love to recognize You in the face of all others. We praise You for Your abounding never changing love. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

#104, (verses 1 and 2) “O, Lord, How Shall I Meet You”
Valet Will Ich Dir Geben, 1614

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, as we journey into these final days of Advent we confess that we have busied ourselves with things we need to get done, until we have lost all our energy. We have tried to meet others expectations and forgotten about the beauty of the expectation and hope of this season. We have forgotten that we are first Your beloved children. Forgive us. Inspire us. Show us how to open our hearts wide to Your love for the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**Please stand, if able*

*Response

#104, (*verse 3*) “O, Lord, How Shall I Meet You”
Valet Will Ich Dir Geben, 1614

You come, O Lord, with gladness in mercy and good-will, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day When You’re renewed creation Your glory shall display.

***A Brief Statement of Faith** (*Pages 37-38, "Glory to God" hymnal*)

II. The Community Hears the Word of God

First Lesson

Luke 1:39-45, page 53, NRSV
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“In dulci Jubilo” and “O Jesulein süß,” from **A Winter’s Night**

Cecilia McDowall
In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo [In quiet joy] Now sing with hearts aglow! Our delight and pleasure lies in praesepe; [in a manger] Like sunshine is our treasure in my gremio. [in the mother's lap] Alpha es et O [Thou art Alpha and Omega] O Jesu parvule [O tiny Jesus] For thee I long alway; Comfort my heart's blindness, O puer optima [O best of boys] With all Thy loving kindness, O princeps gloriae, [O Prince of glory] Trahe me post te. [draw me unto thee] With joy thou hast the whole world filled; Thou camest here from heav'n's domain, To bring men comfort in their pain, O little one sweet, O little one mild. O patris caritas [O love of the Father] O nati lenitas [O gentleness of the Son] Deeply were we stained Per nostra crimina [through our sins] But Thou for us hast gained Coelorum gaudia [the joy of heaven] O that we were there! Ubi sunt gaudia [where are joys] In any place but there? There are angels singing Nova cantica [new songs] And there the bells are ringing In regis curia [in the king's court] O that we were there!

O Jesulein süß

O little one sweet, O little one mild, Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled; Thou camest from heav'n to mortal ken, Equal to be with us poor men, O little one sweet, O little one mild. O little one sweet, O little one mild,

O little one sweet, O little one mild, In thee love's beauties are all distilled; Then light in us thy love's bright flame, That we may give thee back the same, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Time for Children and Their Friends

Second Lesson

Micah 5:2-5, page 815, NRSV
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Bethlehem” Rev. Roger J. Gench

III. The Community Responds to the Word

*Sermon Hymn

#121, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Tune of St. Louis, 1868

Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission “Christmas Joy Offering” Rev. Roger J. Gench
Giving of Morning Tithes and Offerings
Offertory

“Noël Nouvelet” and “Still, Still, Still,” from **A Winter’s Night**

Cecilia McDowall

Noël Nouvelet

Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel! Faithful people, let us shout to God, “Thanks!” Sing we Noel for Christ, the new King. Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!

Then a tiny bird ceased joyous song to say Unto certain shepherds: "Haste you now away! In Bethlehem the newborn Lamb you'll see." Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!

Mary and Joseph in Beth'lem they found, Where the infant lay, with ox and ass around, And for a crib, their manger full of hay. Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!

Soon, the Kings, by the bright star, from the Orient which they had left, to Bethlehem came one morning. Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!

One carrying the gold, one the myrrh also. And the other one, the fragrant frankincense. Then the stable bare resembled Paradise. Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!

Still, still, still

Still, still, still, the baby wants to rest. His mother Mary softly sings, And holds Him gently at her breast. Still, still, still, the baby wants to rest.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, my darling Baby sleep. Angels lift their voices in joy to celebrate the birth of the boy. Sleep, sleep, sleep, my Baby wants to rest.

Joy, joy, joy, my heart o'erflows with joy, God leaves his throne in heav'n above, to fill our lowly streets with love. Joy, joy, joy, my heart o'erflows with joy.

We, we, we, all do call out to you: Open heaven's realm to us, If we must die one day. We, we, we, we all call out to you.

*Response

#607, “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Most High God, for You nothing is impossible. We give You thanks for these gifts and the gifts You provide us every day. Through a poor young woman in a small town You gave birth to your realm of endless glory. By Your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope and overshadow us with Your power and grace so that we, like Mary, might be your servants, bearing witness to the promise of Your Word; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

*Passing of the Peace

*Sending Hymn

#132, “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”
In Dulci Jubilo, 14th Century

- 1 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
- 2 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**
- 3 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

*Commissioning to Ministry and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude

“Sussex Carol,” from **A Winter’s Night**
Cecilia McDowall

We wish to thank our Sanctuary Choir for presenting A Winter’s Night this morning. This is a new Christmas cantata by English composer Cecilia McDowall, famous throughout Europe for her spirited rhythmic anthems and larger works for chorus and orchestra. Over New Year’s, Stan Engebretson will present this cantata in Germany with festival chorus concerts in Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin.

The Peace Candle on the chancel reminds us to pray for *peace* around the world in this Christmas Season and for tolerance among and between religions.

Information for Sunday Visitors

We extend a warm welcome to visitors! We invite you to sign the guest book at the rear of the Sanctuary.

During part of the Advent and Christmastide Season, for 4 Sundays, we also join together for a single service. On Dec 20, 27 and January 3 please join us for a single service at 11 am. (Please note the change in time from previous years).

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. Child care will be available for the 5:30 p.m. service only. Communion will be served at the 8:00 p.m. service.

Assisted Listening: Do you have difficulty hearing the service? Our assisted listening system may help you. The system consists of a small wireless receiver and an ear phone. You may also use your own choice of ear phones or t-coil equipped hearing aids with the receiver. Please contact Joe Thierry at jthierry@erols.com or 703-568-5158 for more information.

Building Tours: To take a tour of our building and learn about this congregation’s heritage, current ministry, and outreach, meet the tour guide at the front of the Sanctuary immediately following the service.

Families with Infants and children: Infants and toddlers 4 and under are welcome in the **Park Level nursery**. Care is provided by licensed, paid professionals. The nursery is open from 8:30 a.m.–12:30p.m. During the services, **children’s worship bulletins**, crayons and books are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. During the sermon time, Pastor Alice and helpers offer **Worship Play** for ages 3-10. During this worship playtime, the children are invited to pray, listen to stories from the Bible and related picture books, sing a song or do a simple craft. At the end of Worship Play, the children are offered a peanut free snack. **There is no worship play on December 24.**