

Information for Visitors

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

Large Print Bibles and Large Print Bulletins: Available at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

When bulletins are waved during worship at New York Avenue, it is a sign of appreciation for the music or other contribution to the service. It is an action which we learned from our partner church, the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, as an alternative to clapping. For the wavers, it is an expression of joy in the moment and our connections with sisters and brothers in faith.

Information for Sunday Visitors

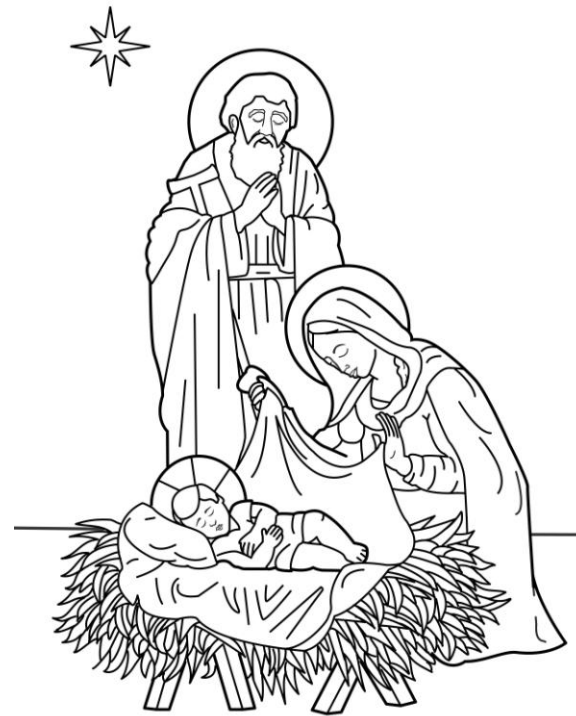
Building Tours: To take a tour of our building and learn about this congregation's heritage and current ministry and outreach, meet the tour guide at the front of the Sanctuary immediately following the service.

Radcliffe Room Ministry: Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to the Radcliffe Room between Sunday worship services. This is a vibrant NYAPC ministry and we would love to have you join us: meet our friends for coffee, conversation, bagels and hymn singing.

Coffee Hour: Between services, all are invited to meet and greet friends and visitors in the back of the Sanctuary.

Infants and children: Babies and toddlers under 4 are welcome in the park level nursery. **Care is provided by licensed, paid professionals.** During the services, children's worship aids are available in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Garage Parking: Free self-parking is available in the garage next to the church at 1399 New York Avenue until 1 p.m. Please park in any non-reserved space.



Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Pastor: Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
Associate Pastor for Congregational Life: Tara Spuhler McCabe, M. Div.
Pastoral Associate: Linda LeSourd Lader, M. Div.
Director of Music: Stanley P. Engebretson, D.M.A.
Parish Associate for Visitation: Ann Rose Davie, M. Div.
Director of Planned Giving: Evelyn S. Ying, J.D.
Parish Associates: J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A.
Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D.
John T. Mathison, M. Div.
J. Riley McDonald, M.Div
Glenn Myers, M. Div., M.A.



The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20005-4790
www.nyapc.org † nyapc@nyapc.org
Office phone: 202-393-3700 † Office fax: 202-393-3705
An inclusive and justice-seeking church.



Celebration of Worship

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

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion
December 24, 2011
8:00 p.m.

Prelude "Carols of the Season"
Kenneth Law, Cello

Introit "Still, Still, Still"
Austrian Carol

*** The Lighting of Advent Candles**

Leader: Our time to wait is over. Our days of preparation are completed. What has not been done will now have to be left undone.

All: We are glad that the time of waiting and preparing is over. Now we put aside our worries and distractions, as we embrace the Good News of God coming to live with us.

Leader: Our circle of Advent candles is lit; now tonight we light the central candle, reminding us that *Christ* is the light of the world, the center of our lives, the shining beacon of hope for all the universe. *Christ* is born. Praise God! Let us pray.

All: O Holy God, we are grateful that You so love the world that You would not leave us alone with our fears and our sins. May the light of Christ extinguish all our darkness, and may our joy be full in the knowledge of Your great love for us and for all Creation. We thank You that the Prince of Peace has come to each of us—healing and restoring our lives and our world. We praise You for Your glorious gifts on this holy night. Amen.

*** Carol** #41, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Adeste Fideles

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7, page 600, NRSV

Time for Children and Their Friends

Anthem "O Magnum Mysterium"
Nicholas White
Translation: O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Second Lesson Luke 2:1-14, pages 54-55, NRSV

*** Carol** #23, "Angels We Have Heard on High"
Gloria

Third Lesson Luke 2:15-20, page 55, NRSV

Meditation Rev. Roger J. Gench

*** Carol** #40, "Joy to the World!"
Antioch

Offertory "Gesù Bambino"
Pietro Yon
Kenneth Law, Cello

*** Response** #44, (verse 3) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
St. Louis

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts. The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

*** Prayer of Dedication** Gracious God, we give thanks tonight that You have given Yourself for our health and wholeness. We stand in awe of Your humility in choosing to dwell among us and within us. We join the heavenly chorus in praise and thanksgiving that You have come as the Light of the World. In gratitude we bring these gifts, and the gifts of our very lives, in the hope of working to bring Your wholeness, justice, and grace to all. Amen.

Service of Communion (*Communion by intinction. Please bring your candle and bulletin with you and remain standing around the table.*)

The Invitation

Litany of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

One: Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise, and to worship You in every place where Your glory abides.

All: You commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. You gave us the breath of life and freedom to choose Your way. You promised Yourself in covenant with Abraham and Sarah, told us Your purpose in commandments through Moses, and called for justice in the cry of prophets. Through long generations You have been faithful and kind to all your children. Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God Almighty.

Your ways are just and true. Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

Hymn # 37 (verse 1) "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
W Zlobie Lezy

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing,
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of Your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of Your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him. In his dying and rising, You gave birth to Your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

All: Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood. Send us out in the power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations. By Your Spirit draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with Him in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, almighty God, forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Participants in the communion proceed down the aisles to the servers, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, partake and remain at the front of the Sanctuary. Those unable to come forward will be offered the bread and the cup at their seats.

(There is a Gluten Free communion set available; raise your hand for a pastor to respond.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

The minister will light a candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath. The ministers will then light a candle of the nearest person. Pass the light on to those next to you, taking care not to tip the candles and spill the wax. Candles will remain lit through the end of the service and then be placed at the doors following the Benediction.

***Carol** #60, "Silent Night, Holy Night"
Stille Nacht

1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4 Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

***Benediction and Sending**

Postlude "Silent Night"

† † † † † † †

The Poinsettias in the Chancel herald the Christmas season and have been given through the generosity of members and friends of the congregation.

We wish to thank **Kenneth Law** for his participation in worship in worship this evening