

Adult Sunday School	
Gathered for Prayer	Today, 9:20 a.m., Lincoln Chapel
Adventures in Prayer has become a group of people who gather each Sunday to pray for one another, for the people on the prayer/care list, for the church and the world. All questions, joys and concerns are welcome. Come anytime.	
Watching and Waiting: Advent Stories and Poems	Today at 9 a.m., Lincoln Parlor
The Annunciation, Advent and Christmas have generated a tremendous outpouring of art and literature across country and culture. This class will focus upon watching and waiting, two responses to the promise of the coming of God in flesh, as reflected in poetry and short stories. Gwenn Gebhard, Tom Dunlap and Paul Dornan will lead.	

	Ministers:	The Congregation
	Pastor:	Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D. rfgench@mindspring.com
	Associate Pastor:	Alice Rose Tewell, M. Div. alice.tewell@nyapc.org
	Director of Music:	Stanley P. Engebretson, D.M.A.
	Parish Associates:	Beth Braxton, M. Div., MRE, D. Min. revbeth.braxton@gmail.com J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A. Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D. Emily Rhodes Hunter, M.Div., M.S. emilyrhodeshunter@gmail.com John T. Mathison, M.Div. jmathisonindc@gmail.com Matthew Schlageter, M.Div.
	Parish Associate for Visitation:	Ann Rose Davie, M. Div. annrosedavie@gmail.com
	Church Administrator:	Jasmine Jowers Prout, M.S. jasmine.jowers@nyapc.org
	Church Senior Accountant:	Lance Jameson lance.jameson@nyapc.org
	Office Associate:	Cheria Mcmillan, A.A. cheria.mcmillan@nyapc.org
	Building Superintendent:	David Smoot david.smoot@nyapc.org
Director of McClendon Scholar in Residence Program:	Theo Brown, M. Div. dialogdays@aol.com	
Director of Planned Giving:	Catherine Schultheis, B.A., Chr.Ed. ceks12601@yahoo.com	
Director of Liturgical Dance:	Kathryn Sparks, M.T.S. dancingsparks@yahoo.com	
Young Adult Volunteer :	Kasey Kelly, B.A. yav@nyapc.org	



"An inclusive, justice-seeking church"

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Opportunities for Service

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

Community Club – Washington D.C.'s oldest tutoring and mentorship program for public and charter school students needs adult volunteers to make a difference in a child's life. Students and volunteers meet at the church on Thursday nights during the school year. Contact Tom Karr or Shamika Bradley at directors@communityclub.org or go to www.communityclub.org for more information.

New York Avenue Educational Foundation - The NYAEF mission is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need in the Washington, DC community. Annually, it solicits proposals and awards grants to grassroots nonprofits, including Community Club, to further impact DC students. Visit <https://nyaef.org> to learn more or contact Brian Schimming at nyaef.dc@gmail.com. Shopping at Amazon? Select the NYAEF as your charity-of-choice through this link <https://smile.amazon.com>. Federal employees/retirees please consider giving through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #25839) at <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov>.

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. Donation baskets are at the rear of the Sanctuary and front desk.

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, robinsseleanor@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@gmail.com.

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@gmail.com or Barry Tindall, barrytindall@verizon.net

NYAPC's Young Adults – For more information about Faith on Tap, Bible Study, other fellowship and service activities, or to be added to the e-mail list, contact Helen Anthony (shanthon@ncsu.edu) or Taylor Allison (taylorallison93@gmail.com).

NYAPC Parent's Listserve – For more information about ministry for infants to high schoolers, or to be added to the email list, contact Associate Pastor Alice Tewell (alice.tewell@nyapc.org).

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 Lance Jameson, the church Senior Accountant, Helen Anthony, the chair of the Annual Stewardship Committee, or Rev. Roger Gench, the Senior Pastor, for more information, questions, or to make your pledge.

Volunteers are needed to staff the welcome table in the narthex, 20-30 minutes before a Sunday service greeting and then 15-20 minutes after, to chat with visitors and members during coffee time. For more details, visit <http://bit.ly/1OFP6r> or contact Helen Anthony shanthon@ncsu.edu or Paul Dornan pbdornanp@aol.com.

Worship Service – Are you interested in ushering or serving as a liturgist during Sunday service? Please contact John Yoder at yoderja@gmail.com (usher) or Mark Zaineddin at zaineddin@gmail.com (liturgy) for more information.



Celebration of Worship

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

December 23, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude Carol Prelude

Introit "Comfort Ye," from **Messiah**
G.F. Handel
Elijah Williams, Tenor

* **Lincoln Chimes**

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

***The Lighting of Advent Candles: The Candle of Peace**
Lighters: **The Inoue Family**

(Isaiah 9:2)

Call to Worship

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
People: **Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose; we wait for Christ to come again.**

Response:

From Central Moluccas traditional melody



Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor: All:
 We wait, we wait, we wait, we wait, ma-ra-
 na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, we wait, we wait.

Leader: From Bethlehem shall come forth *(Micah 5:2-5)*
the one who will rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

People: **He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They shall live secure, for he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.**

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, *(Luke 1:46-55)*
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

People: **God has helped us, according to the promise God made. The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.**

***Opening Hymn**

#140, *(verses 1-3)*, "Once in Royal David's City"
Irby

*Please stand, if able

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, as we reach this fourth Sunday of Advent, we bring to you our prayers of confession. We know we could have shown more love this week, but we have kept ourselves busy with other things. Both intentionally and without thought, through our actions and words, we have hurt others. We have treated gifts and greetings as chores instead of paying attention to the wonder of the season. We ask for forgiveness, and that you would accept our worship. Amid the bright colors that surround us this season, the reds, greens, golds and purples - send us the light of your Christ that all that is good may be revealed more clearly and that all that is broken may be healed. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ, born in Bethlehem, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

*Response

#140, (*verse 4*), “Once in Royal David’s City”
Irby

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

*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

“Carol of the Bells”
Ukrainian Carol

Time for Children and Their Friends

Kasey Kelly
Young Adult Volunteer

Second Lesson

Luke 1:46-55, pages 53-54, NRSV

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **“The Great Unmasking”** **Rev. Roger J. Gench**

III. The Community Responds to the Word

*Sermon Hymn

#129, “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
Es Ist Ein' Ros'

Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission **“The Center”** **Paul Dornan**

Giving of Morning Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Harold C. Darke

*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

O God, at this time each year, we remind ourselves that you have come and continue coming into our lives. You shatter reasoned expectations, give wonder and awe, and fulfill promises little understood. We pray that these gifts representing our time and talent may serve as a spiritual practice to bring us closer to you and your kingdom. Watching and waiting, we pray, hasten the day! 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.

*Sending Hymn

#144, “In the Bleak Midwinter”
Cranham

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**
- 3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**
- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

*Commissioning to Ministry and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude

“Joy to the World”
Traditional

**The Call to Worship and Advent Candle Litany was written by Carla Pratt Keys and Music by Doug Brown for Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA; published by the NEXT Church. The Prayer of Confession and the Prayer of Dedication are adapted from Touch Holiness edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.*

**The prayers of confession and dedication are adapted from resources from the Fourth Sunday of Advent from Touch Holiness, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Karen C. Tirabassi.*

We wish to thank Elijah Williams for his participation in worship this morning.

The red rose on the Communion Table this morning is to welcome and celebrate the birth on December 5 of **Dax Rohan Douglass**, son of Silke and David Douglass.

The Peace Candle in the chancel reminds us to pray that Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of the Season will reign throughout the world, and that the coming of the Christ Child will not be forgotten as the true meaning and spirit of Christmas.

10:00 a.m.	
Liturgist	Kristin Ford
Worship Play	Rev. Alice R. Tewell
Tour Guide	Len Shabman

Counters	
December 23	ShuXian McKenna and Dan Stokes
December 30	Barbara Dornan and Dan Stokes
January 8	Ruth and Fritz von Fleckenstein

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.

LARGE PRINT bulletins are now available for our worship services, including enlarged copies of the hymns. Please pick one up if it's helpful to you, or ask a Deacon usher.

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. Contact Joe Thierry at josephnthierry@gmail.com or 703-568-5158 for more information.

Tours: Meet a tour guide at the front of the Sanctuary following the service to tour the building and learn about our congregation's heritage, current ministry, and outreach.

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

Nursery and Quiet Spaces for Families with small children: We are so happy to have infants and children in worship with us. Our nursery, located in Room 317 (3rd Floor), is an option for babies and children 4 and under. Licensed, paid professionals provide care. The nursery is open from 8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Parents are invited to feed their children in the sanctuary or if you prefer some privacy and a quiet place, we have some additional seating in the balcony area (3rd floor). You are also invited to use the meditation room located inside of the library on the 1st floor, as well as Alice and Stan's outer office on the 2nd floor (sanctuary level). There is a single stall restroom with a changing table in that space.

Worship and Worship Play: We want children to feel included in worship and believe that they are a vital part of our community of faith. Being in worship together can help children understand God's love and their identity as children of God. During our worship services, children's worship bulletins, crayons and books are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. During the sermon time, helpers offer Worship Play for ages 3-10.

When bulletins are waved during worship at NYAPC, 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.

If you have been worshipping regularly at NYAPC and do not yet have a permanent nametag or have mislaid yours, please fill out a blank form with your name in the envelopes on either nametag kiosk in the narthex and the church entryway on the first floor. You will find your nametag on either kiosk on a following Sunday. Nametags are one more way NYAPC strives to be a welcoming presence in Washington.