Paul’s shortest letter, as we consider what it has to say to believers and a slave. This intriguing and much debated letter to Philemon, which takes prayer seriously.

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005
Website: www.nyapc.org Email: nyapc@nyapc.org

Opportunities for Service

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

May 17, 2015
8:45 and 11 a.m.
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Prelude
“Vater unser im Himmelreich” BWV 636
“Ich ruft zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ” BWV 639
“Alle Menschen müssen sterben” BWV 643
From the Orgelbüchlein by J.S. Bach

Introit
“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” Lasst uns erfreuen

*Lincoln Chimes

I. The Community Gatherings for Worship

*Call to Worship (Roberta Porter in Alive Now, May 2005)

Leader: In the years passed, changes have come,
All: With expanded art and newer style.

*Opening Hymn

*Please stand, if able

II. The Community Gathers for Worship

Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Pastor: Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
Associate Pastor: Alice Rose Tewell, M. Div.
Parish Associate: LiaSound Lader, M. Div.
Director of Music: Stanley F. Engbrecht, D.M.A.
Director of Planned Giving: Catherine Schultheis, B.A., Chr.Ed.
J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M. A.
Francis Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D.
Kathryn Sparks, M. T.S.

*Please stand, if able

*Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and understanding, we bring You our sins, those things we have done to offend You and those things we have ignored or blissfully forgot. We seek Your forgiveness.

May we be more prayerful, more deliberate in prayer, as we consider what it has to say to believers and a slave. This intriguing and much debated letter to Philemon, which takes prayer seriously. We will learn togetherness and we will pray together. All questions, joys, and concerns are welcome. Come when you can. The adventure awaits. Led by Miriam Dewhurst.

Adventures in Prayer

Today, 10:20 a.m. Lincoln Parlor

Bible Study with Cuba Partners

May 17 (10am) & May 24 (9am)

The Cuban Studies Bible Study will spend two weeks with Paul’s intriguing and much debated letter to Philemon, which negotiates complicated relationships between an apostle [Paul], a slave owner [Philemon] and a slave [Onesimus]. Join us for an engagement with Paul’s shortest letter as we consider what it has to say to believers today — what it urges the church to believe, to hope for and to do. Led by Rev. Frances Taylor Gench.

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*An inclusive-justice seeking church*
**Response**

#853, stance 4

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

Styahamba

*We are singing in the light of God, We are singing in the light of God, We are singing in the light of God, We are singing, we are singing, we are singing, We are singing in the light of God, We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, singing, We are singing in the light of God.*

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

**II. The Community Heears the Word of God**

**First Lesson**

Psalm 1, page 463, NRSV

Leader: *This is the word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Anthem**

"Your Voices Raise" from Chandos Anthem No. 9

G. F. Handel

**Time for Children and Their Friends**

**Second Lesson**

John 17:6-19, page 105, NRSV

Leader: *This is the word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**

"The Stream" Rev. Roger J. Gench

**III. The Community Responds to the Word**

**Sermon Hymn**

#775, "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Walk With Me

**Concerns of the Church**

**Giving of Morning Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

8:45 The Passing of the Peace as We Gather Around the Table for Giving and Prayer (please bring your bulletins with you)

11:00 "O Praise the Lord with One Consent" from Chandos Anthem No. 9

G. F. Handel

**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**

Loving God, we dedicate these gifts to You. May they be used to engage in mission and ministry in the name of Christ. May these gifts be used to perform good services and remember God's little ones, who serve in Christ's name. Through these gifts, may Your blessings be poured out a little further so that all may know Your love and grace. 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** 11:00 a.m.

**Sending Hymn**

#765, "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

Argentina

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

(Repeat)

**Commissioning to Ministry and Benediction**

**Congregational Response**

Alleluia! Amen!

**Postlude**

"Wer nur den lieben Gott lâßt walten" BWV 642

From the Orgelbüchlein

by J.S. Bach

We wish to thank Samantha Scheff, our guest organist, for her participation in worship this morning.

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jean Guy by her niece and nephew, Whitney McColley and Kevin Guy.

**Preaching Schedule**

One Worship Service Begins Sunday, May 24th at 10 a.m.

May 24 Rev. Roger J. Gench

May 31 – Youth Sunday Julia Haemstra

June 7 Rev. Alice Tewell

June 14 Rev. Jessica Tate, Director of NEXT Church (PCUSA)

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.

Please stay for coffee and fellowship at the side of the Sanctuary after the 8:45 a.m. service and in the Narthex after the 11 a.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 earphone. You may also use your own choice of ear phones or t-coil equipped hearing aids with the receiver. Please contact Joe Thierry at joe@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 under 4 are welcome in the Park Level nursery. Care is provided by licensed, paid professionals. The Nursery is also open each Sunday we have two services from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. When we have one service at 10 a.m., the nursery is open from 8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. During the services, children’s worship bulletins, crayons and books are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. When bulletins are waved during worship, they are an expression of joy in the moment and our connections with sisters and brothers in faith.

When bulletins are waved during worship at NVAPC, 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.