Welcome to New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member . . .
Whether you grew up Presbyterian, something else, or without any kind of faith . . .
Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged . . .
You are welcome here and you have made us better by being present.
New York Avenue takes seriously God’s instructions
to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.
We are a More Light Congregation,
welcoming and advocating for the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ peoples.
We are delighted you have joined us tonight.

Restrooms and Accessibility

An all gender restroom is located out the double red doors next to the lectern, the large golden eagle to the left of the communion table. An accessible entrance is located on the New York Avenue side of the building. The sanctuary is equipped with a t-loop for hearing assistance and large print bulletins and hymnals are available from our ushers.

Children Are Always Welcome

Children, and all their excitement and noises, are always welcome in worship. There is a dedicated space toward the back of the sanctuary with books, toys, and space for kids to wiggle. On Sundays, we offer childcare from 8:30am-12:30pm by paid, professional caregivers. There is a quiet space for nursing mothers in the Meditation Room within the church library on the 1st floor.

Doing Justice, Loving Kindness

Every Sunday morning from 7:30-9:00am, the church hosts breakfast and a clothes closet in our Radcliffe Room for those experiencing homelessness. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Eleanor Roberts, robincleaners@hotmail.com.

Every Wednesday from 7:00-9:00pm, we provide dinner and a safe fellowship experience for those struggling with mental illness. Volunteer with 7 to 9, by contacting Phil Telfeyan, pefleyan@post.harvard.edu.

Every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm, the church hosts Community Club, the longest ongoing free tutoring program for DC public school students. If you’d like to make a difference in the life of a student, please contact Tom Karr or Shamika Bradley at director@communityclub.org.

Monday through Friday, the Downtown Days Services Center is open in the church’s lower level, providing showers, laundry facilities, a hot lunch, permanent housing support, and wraparound services. Visit https://www.downtowndc.org/program/the-center/ for more information.

Sunday Morning Worship, Fellowship, and Education

On December 29, January 5 and 12 we will have one worship service at 10:00am. On January 26-27 we will return to our regular schedule of two services at 8:45am and 11:00am, with Christian Education for children, youth, and adults at 10:00am. Coffee and treats are offered after worship in the back of the sanctuary.

Get Connected

If you’d like to be included in the pastor’s weekly email, outlining upcoming events, please indicate on the Welcome Pads found on the ends of the pews or by sending an email to our Church Administrator, Jasmine Ewens Prost at jasmine.prost@nyapc.org. Check out our website (www.nyapc.org) for more information on events for youth and young adults as well as bible studies, musical opportunities, and international mission partnerships.

*Prelude*  The Christ Candle Lighted
Leader: “Do not be afraid!”
I bring you good news of great joy, for all people.
To you is born this day, in the city of David,
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”
All: In a time of violence and despair,
an ancient prophet brings good news:
Leader: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light
All: For a child has been born to us
Leader: with justice and righteousness
All: From now on for evermore.
Leader: We light the Christ candle
thankful that God has come to us,
not as a conquering hero,
but as a child, whose faithful, peaceful life
will follow God’s way of love.
All: Living God, come to our world,
May the love of Christ shine brightly
at the center of our lives,
spreading warmth and light,
in us, in this church, and everywhere.
*Carol* #133, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Adeste Fideles
First time through played on violin by Maya Smith; please join in after Maya plays.
*Please rise in body or in spirit

Celebration of Worship

Following Christ into places of brokenness and joy, NYAPC will do justice, treat all with kindness and mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24, 2019
5:30 p.m.

The worship service begins with a brief period for personal meditation and the Prelude.

Inarenate God, we worship You this Holy Night.
We think of the baby in arms, gripping Mary’s finger tight, without words and without explanation. We remember that we were all once babies, and that we will forever be
Your beloved children kept in Your eternal love. Amen.

Preludes
Carols of the Season
Mary and Jack Anderson, Flutes

Welcome and Announcements

Introit
“O Holy Night (Cantique de Noel)”
Adolphe Adam
Whitney McColley, Soprano

*The Lighting of Advent Candles: The Christ Candle Lighters
The Yoder-Danewitz Family

*Call to Worship
Leader: "Do not be afraid!”
I bring you good news of great joy, for all people.
To you is born this day, in the city of David,
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”
All: In a time of violence and despair,
an ancient prophet brings good news:
Leader: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light
All: For a child has been born to us
Leader: with justice and righteousness
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All: Living God, come to our world,
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Adeste Fideles
First time through played on violin by Maya Smith; please join in after Maya plays.
*Please rise in body or in spirit
Prayer of Confession

God of sunlight, we promised ourselves that this year would be different; and yet, here we are again. We longed to be faithful like Mary and generous like the wise ones. We longed to be like the shepherds—putting down our work to focus on you. But time got away from us. So we come to you tonight in prayer to draw near to you, knowing that you have already drawn near to us. Forgive us for our shortcomings. Love us into a new season of life, where once again we might strive to be your hands and feet in this world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Grace

*Response of Praise

#134, (verse 1, 4) “Joy to the World!”
Antioch

1 Joy, joy, infant world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love. Time for Children Welcome to the Christmas Story

The Gift of Hope

Isaiah 9 31 Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah
Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them has the light shined. All: 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. Leader: For the yoke of burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor You have broken as on the day of Midian. All: 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. Leader: His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace. All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Carol #88, (verse 1) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Veni Emmanuel

The Gift of Faith

Luke 1:26-38 4 “The angel Gabriel, visits Mary”
Jack Anderson

Anthem “Star Carol”
John Rutter

Matthew 1:18-21 4 “An angel visits Joseph”
Julia Hiemstra

*Carol #145, (verse 1) “What Child is This?”
Greensleeves

The Gift of Peace

Rev. Alice R. Tewell

Meditation

“Christmas Gifts”
Mueller

*Carol #115, (verse 1, 3) “Away in a Manger”
Rev. Dr. Heather Shortlidge

The Offering

O God, we give you thanks for all the gifts you give us every day. We pray that we might see your hope, your peace, your joy, and your wonder every day. We pray that our faith may be in you.

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.

*Lighting of the Christmas Candles

A pastor will begin by lighting a candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath and then light the candle of the nearest person. Pass the light on to those next to you. Candles will remain lit through the end of the service. Please place your candle in the baskets provided at the doors as you exit the sanctuary after the Benediction.

*Carol #122 (verse 1-5) “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.

Benediction and Sending

*The Call to Worship and Benediction for this service is adapted from Brian Wren’s book Advent, Christmas and Epiphany: Liturgies for Public Worship. The prayer of confession is written by Rev. Dr. Heather Shortlidge.

We wish to thank Mary and Jack Anderson and Whitney McColely for their special music this evening.

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

• Sunday, December 29, 2019 – First Sunday After Christmas
  ○ 10:00 a.m.

• Sunday, January 5, 2020 - Epiphany
  ○ 10:00 a.m.

• Sunday, January 12, 2020
  ○ 10:00 a.m.
  ○ Ordination/Installation of Church Officers