

**\*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Sarah Barclay Hoffman

One: In the waiting and the tension

**All: You are teaching us the characteristics of true love.**

One: Like a Prism, it has many faces:

**All: Patience, Courage,**

One: Gentleness, Honesty,

**All: Kindness, Freedom.**

One: For years, for generations, we said,

**All: “God is Love,”**

One: When what we really thought was,

**All: “God is wrath.”**

One: We thought of you as moody and prickly,

**All: Distant and disembodied.**

One: We know better now.

**All: The Christ child has taught us.**

One: As we light this candle, we celebrate the Love we experience in Christ.

One: We like to imagine that moment Love became incarnate

**All: Clear, still, peaceful; Perfect conditions for Love’s emergence**

One: Perfect timing for Love’s expansion.

**All: It’s in quiet that Love has its purest voice. It’s in stillness that Love finds its rhythm.**

One: And indeed, Love smiled upon us that day, its every face beaming:

**All: A tiny voice bawling out Love’s insistence; a tiny heart beating out Love’s cadence.**

One: Shh, we can still hear it:

**All: I love you. I love. I am Love.**

One: Let us worship God!

**\*Opening Hymn**      *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*      #119

**Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer. We come before you in need of healing: The healing of our bodies and souls, the healing of our relationships, and the healing of our judgment and fear, our cynicism and our isolation. We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing, not even the restoration of the whole world. In this season of holy**

**expectation, draw our hearts back to you and to one another so that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and sing your good news anew. (Silent prayer) Amen.**

**Assurance of God’s Grace**

One: ...Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel

**All: We are saved by grace through faith. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

*Please share signs of Christ’s peace with your neighbor.*

**\*Response of Praise** *While We Are Waiting, Come* (v. 1,3)      #92

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come,

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson**      Romans 8:22-26, *The Message*

This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**      *“And the Glory of the Lord,”* from **Messiah**

G.F.Handel

**Time With Children**

*Children of all ages are invited to come forward. After the Time With Children, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to go to Worship Play, returning after the sermon.*

**Second Scripture Lesson**      Luke 1:39-56

This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson, Senior Pastor

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

Online: [www.nyapc.org/give-now](http://www.nyapc.org/give-now)

Text to Give: (202) 998-4677

Mail: 1313 New York Avenue NW, Washington DC 20005

**Offertory**      *“He Shall Feed His Flock/Come Unto Him,”* from **Messiah**

G. F.Handel

Jenete St. Clair, Danielle Talamantes, Soloists

**\*Doxology**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      #607

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**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer**

. . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

. . . God, our Parent and our Friend, our Mother and . . .

**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.**

**\* Hymn**      *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout, v. 1,2,3*      #100

**\*Benediction**

. . . **All: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Benediction Response**      *“Hallelujah Chorus”*      G. F. Handel

**Postlude**      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*      Regent Square, 1867

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**Worship Team**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Rachel Pacheco

Liturgist: Sarah Barclay Hoffman

Music: NYAPC Sanctuary Choir, Jenete St. Clair, Dr. Stan Engebretson, Metropolitan Opera Soprano Danielle Talamantes

Tech: Joe Thierry, Andrew Reich, Rob Neill

### Visitors Information

We are glad you joined us today! If you would like to be in touch with us, please speak with a pastor, usher, or visit our website at [www.nyapc.org](http://www.nyapc.org). To learn about the congregation's heritage, current ministry, and outreach, meet a docent at the Lincoln pew immediately following the service. We invite you to sign the guestbook and to take home a peace candle at the rear of the sanctuary.

### Sunday Morning Opportunities

9:00 am - Adult Learning in Lincoln Parlor (not on 12/25 and 1/1)

9:00 am - Sunday School for Children and Youth (not on 12/25 and 1/1)

9:15 am - Prayer in Lincoln Chapel

### Sunday Morning Fellowship

Immediately following worship, all are invited for coffee, refreshments, and fellowship in Triangle Park in front of the church.

### Children Are Always Welcome

Children are welcome, including all their excitement and noises. There is dedicated children's space in the back of the sanctuary with supplies and space for kids to wiggle. At each sanctuary entrance, there are brightly colored worship kits that children may borrow and use throughout worship at their seats. During worship, there is a children's moment when children are invited forward to the front pew. After the children's moment, on most Sundays, children may choose to go to Worship Play, returning after the sermon. **Our nursery is available at 8:45am through worship on the 3rd floor for families with children up to 4 years old who choose to use it.**

**When bulletins are waved during worship at NYAPC**, it is a sign of appreciation for the music or other contributions to worship. It is an action that we learned from our partner church, the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, as an alternative to clapping.

### Inclusive Language in Worship

At NYAPC we endeavor to use inclusive and expansive language for God as one way to acknowledge and celebrate all people and bring recognition and a sense of belonging to people who have been historically marginalized in society and even in the church. In doing so, we seek to broaden our expressions of God grounded in scripture and the many human reflections of our Creator as we live into what it means to the body of Christ.

### Restrooms and Accessibility

All-gender restrooms are 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 Ave side of the building.

### Assisted Listening Devices Available

Assisted Listening Devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. The system consists of a small wireless receiver and headphones. You may also connect your t-coil equipped hearing aid to the receiver using an adapter. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Garage Parking

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

### Get Connected

If you would like to be included in the church's weekly email newsletter, outlining upcoming events, please email [adminoffice@nyapc.org](mailto:adminoffice@nyapc.org).

### Doing Justice, Loving Kindness

Every Sunday morning from 7:45 am, the church hosts breakfast and a clothes closet in our Radcliffe Room for those experiencing homelessness. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Phil Telfeyan ([ptelfeyan@post.harvard.edu](mailto:ptelfeyan@post.harvard.edu))

### Supporting NYAPC's Ongoing Mission and Ministry

The ministry of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church is made possible entirely through the gifts of its dedicated members and friends. It is only through your generosity that the church can fully live into its core mission of challenging the powerful, standing with the oppressed, lifting up the broken-hearted, and making God's love and justice visible by welcoming and loving all.

There are many ways to share your gifts. **Donation options are found on the church website ([www.nyapc.org](http://www.nyapc.org))**. For more information, contact **Finance Manager Lance Jameson** ([lance.jameson@nyapc.org](mailto:lance.jameson@nyapc.org)) or **Director of Planned Giving Cathy Schultheis** ([catherine.schultheis@nyapc.org](mailto:catherine.schultheis@nyapc.org)) for estate plans.

### General Church Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am - 4pm

Thursday: 8am-9pm, and Sunday: 8am - 1pm



*Expressing God's Love, Engaging in God's Justice*

1313 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005

202-393-3700 | [www.nyapc.org](http://www.nyapc.org)

## Sunday, December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent



**Prelude** "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," Cantata 140 J. S. Bach

### Words of Welcome

*Welcome to The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, for we are so glad you are here! Wherever you are on the journey of life, love, or faith, know that all are welcome here.*

**Introit** "Rejoice Greatly," from **Messiah** G. F. Handel  
Danielle Talamantes, Soloist

### \*The Lincoln Chimes

*\*Please rise in body and or spirit*

*Worshippers at New York Avenue stand at the sound of the Westminster chimes that begin each service, a melody played by the bells in our church tower given by the Robert Lincoln family in memory of President Lincoln who regularly worshiped at NYAPC.*