You Belong Here.

From where you are now to where you are going.
From the beliefs you carry to the doubts you know.
From where you sleep to the place you call home.
From whom you love to how you identify.
You are seen, known, and loved by God
and all parts of you are celebrated here.

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the Glory of God by the Flower Fund.

Prelude *Noël Suisse*
Louis-Claude Daquin
Samantha Scheff, organ

Words of Welcome

Moment for Ministry Nominating Committee

***The Lincoln Chimes**
**Please rise in body and or spirit*

Our tradition is to stand when the Westminster chimes play at the beginning of each service. The bells in the church tower were given by the Robert Lincoln family in memory of President Lincoln, who regularly worshiped here.

***Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Wreath**
One: How does a weary world practice joy?
All: By practicing Sabbath, forgiving seventy times seven, choosing grace over judgment, and connection over condemnation.
One: How does a weary world practice peace?
All: By listening before we speak, choosing love over fear, advocating for justice, and caring for all our neighbors.
One: Today, we light the candle of peace, challenging us to be peacemakers in a world dedicated to violence, waiting and watching for God, the Prince of Peace.
All: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

***Hymn** *O, Lord, How Shall I Meet You* #104
Valet will ich dir geben, 1614

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession
One: God of laughter, God of open doors,
God of connection and surprising welcome.
We confess that we often doubt good news.
All: We move through this world closed up and closed off, overwhelmed the world's needs, overwhelmed by life's demands, overwhelmed by reaching out.
One: Instead of widening our welcome and seeking connection, we lean into scarcity.
All: We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.
One: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.
All: Heal our wounds from past hurts and give us the courage to take small steps toward community. Like Elizabeth, teach us how to throw open the doors of our lives and our hearts. Invite us to find peace and joy in connection. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace
One: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. With God's help, we are sent into the world to serve as peacemakers. Alleluia! Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**
One: May the peace of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!
Please share signs of Christ's peace with your neighbor.

***Response of Praise** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v.1) #88
O come, O come, Emmanuel;
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here;
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Luke 1:26-33
One: This is the word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Brightest and Best*
American Hymn, arr. Kirchner
Jacob Gagosian, fiddle

Time With Children
Children of all ages are invited to come forward.

Second Scripture Lesson Luke 1:34-42
One: This is the word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "A Weary World Rejoices: A Peace That Gathers"
Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson, Senior Pastor

***Song** *Be Open* Debbie Nargi-Brown
Be open for something, wonderful to happen,
Be open to the possibility (x2)
Aiye Aiye Aiye, Aiye Aiye Aiye (x2) (repeat all)

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings
Scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin to give online.

Offertory *Magnificat in Bb Major*
Charles Villiers Stanford

***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
One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

The Lord's 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* #100
Irish Tune of Star of the County Down

***Benediction**
All: Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude "*Toccata*," from Symphony for Organ No. 5
Charles-Marie Widor
Samantha Scheff, organ

Worship Team

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson
Associate Pastor: Rev. Rachel Pacheco
Liturgist: Helen Anthony
Candle Lighters: Morgan Brown, Sam Obermyer
Music: NYAPC Sanctuary Choir, Jacob Gagosian, Samantha Scheff, Dr. Stan Engebretson
Tech: Will Timmons, D'Mitre Powell, Rob Neill

This Sunday

8:15 am: Radcliffe Room breakfast
9 am: Sunday School for all ages
9:15 am: Prayer group
10 am: Worship
11:30 am: Coffee Fellowship (in the back of the Sanctuary)

Children Information

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 through worship at their seats.
During worship, there is a **children's moment** when children are invited forward. Afterwards, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to go to **Worship Play,** returning after the sermon.

Our **nursery** is available through worship on the 3rd floor for families with kids up to 4 years old.

Things to Know During Service

When **bulletins are waved** during worship at NYAPC, it is a sign of appreciation for the music or other contributions to worship. This tradition was first learned and celebrated from our partner church in Cuba, First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana.

If there is an **asterisk (*) printed** next to an item, we are inviting you to please rise in body and or spirit.

Restrooms

All-gender restrooms are located through the double red doors next to the large golden eagle.

Sunday Morning Parking

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

Accessibility

An **accessible entrance** is located on the ground floor on the New York Ave side of the building, which also provides access to an elevator serving all floors.

Assisted Listening Devices are provided at the rear of the sanctuary. This system includes a compact wireless receiver and headphones. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a t-coil, you can connect it to the receiver using an adapter. If you need any help with this, please don't hesitate to ask one of our ushers.

Language for God

At NYAPC, we strive to use inclusive and expansive language for God. While many traditional prayers and hymns use gender-specific language for God, we seek to embrace the many reflections of our Creator found through scripture. In doing so, we embody what it means to be the body of Christ.

2024 Stewardship

We have received **$603,410 in pledges toward our $700,000 goal** - thank you for giving joyfully! **Scan the QR code** for campaign materials and to pledge online, **pick up a pledge form** at any entrance to the sanctuary or visit **nyapc.org/stewardship**.

Get Connected

To find out about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, subscribe to our weekly email, make donations, send in prayer requests, and more, simply **scan the QR code below** or visit **nyapc.org/info**.

