

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Prelude *As With Gladness Men Of Old* William Chatterton,
Conrad Kocher

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Introit *Angels We Have Heard on High* Traditional French
Carol

Call to Worship Mildred Remy and Frieda Lane

***Hymn** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” No. 150

Choral Anthem *Go Tell It On the Mountain* John W. Work;
Joel Raney, arr.

Advent Wreath Ritual

Leader: Hear afresh the words of John’s prologue, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. We are preparing ourselves for the coming days.

People: The days when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, when the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: King David forgot himself in his joy, dancing naked before the Ark of the Lord as it was brought into the midst of the people of Jerusalem.

People: The people of Jerusalem forgot themselves in their joy, singing and praising the Christ as he came into their midst.

Leader: The candles already burning represent the Hope, Peace, and our Love in Christ. The candle we light today represents the JOY we share at the Advent of our Lord.

Hymn “One Candle Is Lit” (v. 3) No. 128

*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.*

Morning Prayers 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 trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
And the power,
And the glory, forever.
Amen.

Prayer Response “O Little Town of Bethlehem” No. 144, v. 4

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.*

***Hymn** “Silent Night, Holy Night” No. 145

Scripture Luke 2:1-11 Ben Bratcher

Sermon “It Was Not – in Any Way Rev. Susan Sparks
Shape or Form – A Silent Night”

Offering

Offertory Music *It’s Beginning to Look Like* Meredith Wilson
Christmas from “Michael Buble - Christmas”
Brian Long

***Doxology** No. 46

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Hymn** “Joy to the World” No. 143

Benediction

Benediction Response “Fourfold Amen” No. 313

Postlude *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* Hugh Martin;
Samkzy, arr.

**Please stand as you are able.*

†If you would prefer to give your offering electronically, options for doing so using your mobile phone are available on the back of this bulletin.

*Please, no food or drinks in the Sanctuary during the service.
Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices before the service.*

TODAY

11:00 a.m. Sermon, Rev. Susan Sparks; music by
Aza Sydykov and the MABC Choir
12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour

Choir: Jenny Lindsey (soprano), Karen Rich (soprano),
Alexandra de Suze (alto), Richard Binder (tenor),
Brian Long (baritone), Doug Shapiro (bass)

Video and Audio: Travis Dover, Reghu Ragunathan



Check Out These Programs and Upcoming Events!

Have you made your Stewardship pledge yet? Prayerfully consider your contributions for 2023. You can make your pledge online through PushPay at the MABC website (www.mabcnyc.org) or you can fill out one of the available pledge cards and give it to an usher. Your pledges will support the mission of Madison Avenue Baptist Church and allow the church to continue its ministries in this community. Thank you for your support.

MABC Winter Clothing Drive - Each year MABC partners with Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries in their winter clothing drive. They need adult winter coats, pants, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and underwear. In addition, they can always take adult shoes! They take clean, gently used or new items. If you want to donate through their Amazon Wishlist, they can do so at <https://tinyurl.com/5b9c26jk>. If you are able to donate any of these items, you can bring them to MABC and drop them in the box at the back of the Sanctuary. Or you can bring them to RMM at 410 West 40th Street in Manhattan. For more information or to volunteer, contact either Adom Crew (adom.crew@gmail.com), or RMM directly (212-594-4464 or volunteer@rmmnyc.org).

Shop AmazonSmile and Benefit MABC! - There are only a few days left in the Christmas shopping season. And don’t forget the post-Christmas sales! Now you can make your purchases through Amazon AND benefit MABC through the AmazonSmile program. Enter Amazon through the special link (<https://amzn.to/2DUfKim>), make your purchases, and MABC receives a percentage from all eligible items! (Please note: if your Amazon account is already linked to a charity in the Smile program, you will have to change the designation to Madison Avenue Baptist.)

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

*MABC is equipped with a hearing assistance system.
Please ask an usher for a receiver.*



MABC Holiday Gift Program - This holiday season we would again like to help the people closest to our church family as much as possible by providing gifts for each other! We know this year continues to be very challenging for many of us, so we hope to help each other as much as possible in these circumstances. There are two ways to participate:

(1) If you know anyone personally in need of holiday support (including yourself, friends, co-workers, children, colleagues, etc.) and willing to accept acts of kindness from others, please give us their contact information and a short message about how we can be of help to them. We will take these names and figure out how to best serve them during the Christmas season. Our goal here is only to help and not hurt anyone's feelings, so please be sure anyone nominated will be okay with receiving a holiday gift.

(2) If you are willing to be a sponsor and provide a holiday gift for someone who desires assistance, please let us know and volunteer to help! Once we determine the individuals to whom we'd like to provide support, we will need individuals to help with fulfilling these presents.

If possible, please fill out one of the forms available at the back of the church to provide specific information; or email Adom Crew (adom.crew@gmail.com) directly with these details.

Angel Tree Program - MABC is excited to participate in the Angel Tree Program through the Prison Fellowship. As a Christian-based organization, they work to help strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children by having sponsors purchase gifts that can be provided to these children at Christmas time. Every Angel Tree family is also given Bibles and ministry from the Prison Fellowship to provide support going forward. We will be sponsoring 10 families for their Christmas gifts and are looking forward to providing some holiday cheer in the lives of these individuals. Instead of having to purchase a physical present, the financial amount provided will allow the Prison Fellowship to buy and ship gifts to these families on our behalf.

To learn more about this organization, feel free to read about their mission on their website: <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/>. If you're interested in participating, children can be sponsored directly on the MABC Angel Tree webpage here: <https://tinyurl.com/3zu89a6j>. Thanks for your consideration in helping others during this holiday season.

Dial-In Sermons Available - Do you know someone who would like to hear the sermon each week but doesn't have an internet connection to view our services or access podcasts? Now they can listen to the sermon on their phone! Simply dial 833-765-0617 to hear the sermon from the most recent Sunday service.

We welcome you to our service this morning! Our church is committed to being one which is inclusive regardless of race, sexual orientation or socio-economic situation. Jesus gave us the supreme example of inclusiveness. In our human way, we attempt to follow.

If you are a visitor, we're glad you're here! Please make sure to fill out a visitor's card and give it to an usher. This is a community of faith where everyone is welcome. We hope to see you again!

Options for Electronic Giving

Would you like to support MABC's ministries? MABC accepts contributions through the following methods:

Envelope Giving: Cash or Check

Online: www.mabcnyc.org

Mobile*: Text "MABCNYC" to 77977

*When you send 'mabcnyc' to 77977 you will receive a one time reply containing a link to give to Madison Avenue Baptist Church (1msg/request). Please be aware that Msg & Data rates may apply. For full Terms & Conditions please visit <https://pushpay.com/terms>. For the Privacy Policy please visit <https://pushpay.com/privacy>. For help reply HELP or STOP to cancel.

MABC on Social Media

Follow us on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by visiting our website at www.mabcnyc.org.

Instagram - @Madisonavenuebaptist

Twitter - @madavebaptist

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Pastor: Rev. Susan G. Sparks

Minister of Music: Aza Sydykov

Parish Administrator: Brian Crowson

Sexton: Troy Gordon



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MADISON AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1848



A DIVERSE FAMILY, BROUGHT TOGETHER BY
FAITH, WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME
