



The Larchmont Avenue Church

60 Forest Park Avenue
Larchmont, New York 10538
(914) 834-1800

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Director of Music: Douglas Kostner

December 5, 2021

The Second Sunday in Advent

Bulletin for Online and In-Person Worship

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT: PEACE

DECEMBER 5, 2021

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Jacques Berthier

Slava Znatchenii, oboe

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

MOMENT FOR MISSION

John Irving

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Sasha and Chris Nahr

The One who is coming will be called the Prophet of the Most High.

**He will go before the Lord to prepare God's way,
to give knowledge of salvation and the forgiveness of sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God,
**the dawn from on high will break upon us,
bringing light to those who sit in darkness.**

We relight the first Advent candle
to acknowledge the Light of Hope.

And we light the second Advent candle to herald the coming of Prophet of the Most High,
the One who will guide our feet into the way of peace.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light. We have received the wisdom of God's Word, but we write our own codes and justify our own ways. We speak of the power of God's love, but our lives follow other patterns. We seek the solace of God's peace, but we cannot seem to avoid conflict with one another.

God of the prophets, forgive us for our failures to follow. Look favorably on your people and redeem us. Raise up for us a mighty Savior, who can help us to do what is true and to come to the light. Surprise us, Lord, with mercy, with peace, with faith, and with love...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA

My Soul Gives Glory to My God (vs. 1&5)

*My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.*

*THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
And also with you!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dawn Moriwaki

O Lord, as your Word is read and proclaimed, shine your light in the darkness, so that we might find the Way. We ask this in the name of the One who said, “I am the light of the world.” Amen.

PSALTER

Psalms 90 (*The Message*)

God, it seems you’ve been our home forever; long before the mountains were born, Long before you brought earth itself to birth, from “once upon a time” to “kingdom come”— you are God. So don’t return us to mud, saying, “Back to where you came from!”

Patience! You’ve got all the time in the world—whether a thousand years or a day, it’s all the same to you. Are we no more to you than a wispy dream, no more than a blade of grass that springs up gloriously with the rising sun and is cut down without a second thought? Your anger is far and away too much for us; we’re at the end of our rope. You keep track of all our sins; every misdeed since we were children is entered in your books. All we can remember is that frown on your face. Is that all we’re ever going to get? We live for seventy years or so (with luck we might make it to eighty). And what do we have to show for it? Trouble. Toil and trouble and a marker in the graveyard. Who can make sense of such rage, such anger against the very ones who fear you?

Oh! Teach us to live well! Teach us to live wisely and well! Come back, GOD—how long do we have to wait?— and treat your servants with kindness for a change. Surprise us with love at daybreak; then we’ll skip and dance all the day long. Make up for the bad times with some good times; we’ve seen enough evil to last a lifetime. Let your servants see what you’re best at— the ways you rule and bless your children. And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us, confirming the work that we do. Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:68-79

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Surprise Us with Love at Daybreak”

Dr. Bynum

*Blest be the God of Israel, the ever-living Lord,
Who comes in power to save his own, his people Israel.
For Israel he raises up salvation's tower on high
In David's house who reigned as king and servant of the Lord.*

*Through holy prophets did he speak his Word in days of old,
That he would save us from our foes and all who bear us ill.
To our ancestors did he give his covenant of love,
So with us all he keeps his Word in love that knows no end.*

*Of old he gave his solemn oath to Father Abraham;
His seed a mighty race should be and blest forevermore.
He vowed to set his people free from fear of every foe,
That we might serve him all our days in goodness, love, and peace.*

*O tiny child, your name shall be the prophet of the Lord;
The way of God you shall prepare to make his coming known.
You shall proclaim to Israel salvation's dawning day,
When God shall wipe away all sins in his redeeming love.*

*The rising sun shall shine on us to bring the light of day
To all who dwell in darkest night and shadow of the grave.
Our footsteps God shall safely guide to walk the ways of peace;
His name forevermore be blest, who lives and loves and saves.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

...Therefore we praise you, with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever proclaim the glory of your name.

SANCTUS

*(congregation singing)****Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might,******Heaven and earth are full of your Glory.******Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!******Hosanna in the highest!****(Continued)*

***Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!***

... Great is the mystery of faith.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

***Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Jacques Berthier

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near, lift up your voices, the Lord is near.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and power and glory forever. Amen.

THE GREAT AMEN

(congregation singing)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

***Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!***

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Gifts may be shared online at lacny.org/giving or via the Realm Connect app. Additional pledge cards are available at the Usher Station in the narthex.

*HYMN 187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Aaron Miller

Slava Znatchenii, oboe

MENTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

LAC's Annual **Advent Workshop** returns TODAY! Immediately following worship, all are invited to Russell Hall for advent-wreath making, cookie decorating, crafts for all ages, and some festive tunes! A HUGE thank you to the many folks who have helped to plan and prepare for this event!

As in previous years, the LAC community is invited to sponsor **poinsettias for our Christmas Eve** services in memory and in honor of loved ones. The deadline to submit dedications (*email mmajor@lacny.org*) is **December 9th**, and we suggest a donation of \$25 per plant. You are welcome to bring flowers home with you following the 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service or the Lessons & Carols Service on December 26.

Save the Date: on December 12, 2021, immediately following worship, there will be a **meeting of the Congregation** of the Larchmont Avenue Church for the purpose of electing new church officers.

The next session of Rev. Bynum's Adult Education series will be on December 12 following the Congregational Meeting! All are welcome to join for an exploration of the **Art of Advent!**

Help LAC bring Christmas cheer to our neighbors in need so that they know the true hope and joy that Christmas promises. The LAC **Christmas Basket** program is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to demonstrate our willingness to help the less fortunate among us while we celebrate the spirit of giving. We are looking for LAC members to provide wrapped Christmas gifts or gift cards for 50 individuals in 14 families this year. Each family will also receive a gift basket filled with Christmas goodies.

There are two ways you can help:

1. **Adopt an individual:** Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3xi0x5E>

*All items must be dropped off at
64 Chatsworth Ave by December 16.*

2. **Donate funds:** The Church & Community (formerly Church & Society) committee will use monetary donations to purchase holiday treats, hats, scarves, small games, body lotion, and food gift cards to fill a basket for each family. Donations can be made via www.lacny.org/giving (select "Christmas Baskets" in the drop-down menu on the Giving page) or by mailing a check to LAC with "Christmas Baskets" in the memo. **We have been overwhelmed by your generosity in the past and have faith that it will continue this year.**

Thank you!

Church & Community Committee

LAC has been invited to join our Interfaith neighbors for an afternoon of **community caroling!** We'll gather in Constitution Park on December 19 from 4-5 p.m. to make a joyful noise and sing some beloved Holiday classics.

On December 22, LAC will hold a **Blue Christmas** service. We'll gather in the Chapel at 1:00 p.m. for a midday service of prayer, reflection, and spiritual support for folks who struggle around the Holidays. Whether you are missing loved ones, living day-by-day with depression or anxiety, or simply need space to pause and reflect amid this busy season—there is space for you here.

Welcome to Worship

Today's bulletin cover is "Sun of Righteousness," from Ad Crucem Chrismons.

Christian Education

We are drawing nearer to **LAC's Christmas Pageant!** We look forward to experiencing Christ's birth story anew on **December 19**. During December, pageant preparations—from auditions for speaking parts to costume distribution—will take place during Sunday School, and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 18 from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Sunday School News: As this is a Communion Sunday, students will **BEGIN** worship in Sunday School and return to celebrate the Sacrament with their families! Students should be dropped off at the Chapel at the start of worship as the Advent Workshop has taken over Russell Hall.

On December 12, we will mark a special milestone in the life of faith by **presenting our fourth-grade students with Bibles!** We are excited to honor their deepening faith and acknowledge their special role as leaders within our all-ages Sunday School program.

Nursery Care for our smallest congregants—infants and toddlers ages 2 and below—is available on the ground floor of the education wing in Room 114.

Youth Groups: On Wednesdays, TGIF will meet at in the Youth Center at 5:00 p.m., SHIFT will join at 6:00 p.m. for a shared dinner, then SHIFT will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This week, we'll celebrate the Season of Advent with some festive fun!

The **Men's Bible Study** will next meet on Thursday, **December 16** at 8:30 a.m. in the Lindsley. Any questions, please email Arthur Washington at ajwash3@outlook.com.

This Week at LAC:

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

MONDAY

3:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

6:45 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

7:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

11:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY

9:30 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

Worship (Sanctuary / Online)

Sunday School (Chapel)

Advent Workshop (Russell)

DECEMBER 6

CCC (Library)

Youth Ministry Committee (Lindsley)

DECEMBER 7

Al Anon (Library / Zoom)

AA (Chapel / Zoom)

Westchester Chorale (Sanctuary)

DECEMBER 8

Staff Meeting (Lindsley / Zoom)

TGIF (Youth Center)

Shared Dinner (Youth Center)

SHIFT (Youth Center)

Symphonia (Chapel)

Chancel Choir (Russell)

DECEMBER 9

Bible Study Fellowship (Zoom)

Westchester Children's Chorus (Russell/Chapel)

AA (Chapel)

Finance Committee (Lindsley)

DECEMBER 10

Westchester Children's Chorus Winter Concert (Sanctuary)

THE LARCHMONT AVENUE CHURCH

The Larchmont Avenue Church is a member church of
the Presbyterian Church USA (pcusa.org) and
the Hudson River Presbytery (hudrivpres.org).

You may reach staff members via (914) 834-1800 at the following extensions:

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum <i>Email: pbynum@lacny.org</i>	308
Director of Music Ministry	Douglas Kostner <i>Email: dkostner@lacny.org</i>	307
Church Secretary & Communications Director	Marranda Major <i>Email: mmajor@lacny.org</i>	302
Bookkeeper	Gloria Haq <i>Email: ghaq@lacny.org</i>	310
LAC Preschool Director	Kristin DeFelice <i>Email: preschooldirector@lacny.org</i> 834-3984, www.lacpreschool.com	
LAC Preschool Admin. Assistant	Tammy Consentino <i>Email: adminassistant@lacny.org</i>	
Sextons	Gerry Gaitan Cesar Manrique	304

Church Officers

Co-clerks of Session Clark Morehouse and Leah Griggs Pauly

Board of Trustees

President Arthur Washington

Vice-President Stacy Brandom

Secretary and Treasurer Jeff Smith

Board of Deacons

Moderator Katherine Sinsabaugh

LAC Website: www.lacny.org Fax: (914) 834-1832

Place prayer requests at: The LAC Prayer Connection (ext. 342)

You may reach Rev. Bynum via his mobile phone at (843)302-2511.

Our COVID Safety procedures may not allow us to pass the offering plate, however, LAC always welcomes your gifts of time, talent, and treasure! Financial gifts may be shared via this QR code, or you can email the Office about finding other ways to share your time!



Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
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 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.