



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 12, 2021

The Third Sunday in Advent

Bulletin for Online and In-Person Worship

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: JOY

DECEMBER 12, 2021

PRELUDE

*Nun komm der Heiden
Heiland*

J. S. Bach

Rich Williams, trombone

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE OF JOY

Pat and Jim Allen

Listen for the voice of one crying out in the wilderness;
Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight!

“Bear fruits worthy of repentance,” John says,
“for one more powerful than I is coming.”

**We are not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

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

We relight the second Advent candle
to herald the coming of the Prince of Peace.

And we light the third Advent candle as a sign of the joy
that God is bringing into the world.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**John cried out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”
Forgive us, O God of mercy, for our failures to prepare your way.
Forgive us when we have hindered, and not helped, your redemptive work...
when we have ignored the challenging words of your prophets...
when we have walked around a neighbor in need, instead of offering
compassion.**

**Hear now, in these moments, the silent confessions of our hearts, as we come to you
with repentance and the hope of grace that you so generously give.**

Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.

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

Barbara Flickinger

O Lord, as we open your Word to hear it read and proclaimed, we rejoice in you. Again, we say, we rejoice. We know that you are near, so speak the truth to us through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we might hear and follow with joy. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 3:14-20

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

FOURTH GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

All students are invited forward for a celebration of our fourth graders!

Congregation: **May God be with you there!**

Students: May God be with you here!

Children exit for Sunday School

ANTHEM

People, Look East

Malcolm Archer

*People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

(Continued)

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

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

SERMON

“The Ax at the Root of the Tree”

Dr. Bynum

VOLUNTARY

Divinum Mysterium

Raymond Haan

Rich Williams, trombone

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE 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

***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 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F

Johann Pachelbel

MENTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

TODAY, 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 take place this afternoon 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. (hot cocoa and songbook distribution will begin at 3:45 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.

This year, LAC will offer three services on **Christmas Eve:** identical family-friendly services at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and our traditional service at 8:30 p.m. Pre-registration is **HIGHLY** encouraged and is now available on Realm.

Welcome to Worship

Today's bulletin cover is an icon depicting John the Baptist as the angel of the desert, restored by the Icon Workshop of St. Elizabeth in Minsk, Belarus.

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: Students will be dismissed to Russell Hall following the Fourth Grade Bible Presentation to continue rehearsing for next week's Christmas Pageant!

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: This week, both TGIF and SHIFT will help to prepare and serve dinner at HOPE in New Rochelle. Watch your email for more details!

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

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Today at the meeting of the congregation of the Larchmont Avenue Church—on Sunday, December 12, 2021—the following members of the church are to be nominated to the offices show below. Upon nomination, the congregation will vote to elect officers.

Unless otherwise indicated, all are nominated for the Class of 2025:

Deacons

Beverly Bell
Susan Bell
Suzy Huang (*renewed term*)
Theresa Michna (*renewed term*)
Jennifer Stevens (*renewed term*)

Youth Deacons (1-year term: Class of 2023)

Melanie Huang
Katie Sykes
Luke West
Ronan West

Elders

Pat Allen
Garr Di Salvo
Stacey Harvey
Anthony Manson

Trustees

Stacy Brandom (*renewed term*)
Kate Kies
Emily Irving
Dick Martin (*filling a Class of 2023 vacancy*)

2022 All-Church Nominating Committee Members At Large

Chris Templeman
Ernest Wong
Melissa Manice

Faithfully submitted by the 2021 All-Church Nominating Committee:

Pat Allen
David Brandom
Amy Hart
Ann Hitchings
Clark Morehouse (Chair)
Mary Sykes

This Week at LAC:

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 12

Worship (Sanctuary / Online)
Sunday School (Russell)
Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
The Art of Advent (Russell)
Reznik Studio Student Recital (Sanctuary)

MONDAY

3:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 13

CCC (Library)
Joint Board Meeting (Russell)
Session (Library)
Trustees (Lindsley)
Deacons (Youth Center)

TUESDAY

6:45 p.m.
7:15 p.m.
7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 14

Al Anon (Library / Zoom)
AA (Chapel / Zoom)
Westchester Chorale (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY

11:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 15

Staff Meeting (Lindsley / Zoom)
TGIF & SHIFT (Off-site: HOPE)
Symphonia (Chapel)
Chancel Choir (Russell)

THURSDAY

8:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
4:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 16

Men's Bible Study (Lindsley)
Bible Study Fellowship (Zoom)
Westchester Children's Chorus (Russell/Chapel)
AA (Chapel)

SATURDAY

10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 18

Pageant Dress Rehearsal (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!



east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106

G C D7 G C D Gsus G

- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

G C D7 G C D Gsus G

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Em D G A7 D A D Em A7 D

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain

G Em Dsus D Em Am D7 G

O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folk tune that spread to Scandinavia.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.