



Larchmont Avenue Church

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 3, 2023

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Associate Pastor: Rev. Anna Grace Claunch
Director of Music: Douglas Kostner

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 3, 2023

PRELUDE *Pastorale* Bartolomeo Franzosini

INTROIT *Come, Let Us Walk* Douglas Kostner
Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Halliley Family

One: We have come this morning looking for God's hope,

All: for we yearn to feel that hope in our hearts.

One: We have come this morning hoping to find God's path,

All: for the Way of Christ can be difficult to find and challenging to walk.

One: We have come this morning longing for peace,

**All: for that day when swords will finally be beaten into plowshares,
and spears into tools for sewing.**

One: We light the first Advent candle as a sign of our hope that the Light of the
World is coming,

and that he will make himself known to us.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*THE PEACE

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

*OPENING HYMN #82 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)* Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

**Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be reborn. Save
us from traps**

**of our own making, from fear that hinders the way of love, from worry
that blocks the way of joy, from sin and injustice that cloud the way to
health and wholeness.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, for the things we have done and the things we have left
undone. Light our way through this holy season. Help us find the path
that leads to peace, to the glory of Christ our Prophet, Priest, and
King... *(time for silent prayer)***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

Hymn 584

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high! (2x)

And on earth peace to the people in whom God is well pleased. (2x)

**¡Gloria, gloria, gloria en las alturas a Dios! (2x)
Y en la tierra paz para aquellos que ama el Señor. (2x)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)* Leah Griggs Pauly
Holy Spirit, as we open the Word of God in this season of light, we ask you to find us and rest upon us. Bless us with a spirit of wisdom and understanding, and help us to hear what you would have us hear on this first Sunday of Advent. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 13:11-14 Simon Pauly

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 2:1-5 Rev. Bynum

SERMON “Where Are You Christmas?” Rev. Bynum

ANTHEM *Where Are You, Christmas?* Mariah Carey
Emilie Surtees, soloist

*Where are you Christmas? Why can't I find you? Why have you gone away?
Where is the laughter you used to bring me? Why can't I hear music play?
My world is changing; I'm rearranging. Does that mean Christmas changes too?
Where are you Christmas? Do you remember The one you used to know?
I'm not the same one; see what the time's done. Is that why you have let me go?
Christmas is here, everywhere; Christmas is here, if you care.
If there is love in your heart and your mind. You will feel like Christmas all the time.
Oh, I feel you Christmas, I know I've found you; You never fade away.
The joy of Christmas stays here inside us, Fills each and every heart with love.
Where are you Christmas? Fill your heart with love.*

THE SACRAMENT OF 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

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!

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

...Great is the mystery of faith.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Congregational Response *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

Jacques Bethier

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 AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Claunch
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 the power and glory forever. Amen.

THE GREAT AMEN (*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!***

INVITATION TO OFFERING Rev. Claunch
Financial gifts may be shared electronically via the Realm Connect app or by scanning the QR code to the right. Additional pledge cards are available at the Usher Station at the rear of the sanctuary.



OFFERTORY *Rejoice, O Jerusalem* Healey Willan
The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Behold, the Lord shall come and all his saints with him; and in that day the light shall be great. Rejoice, O Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh. Alleluia!

*DOXOLOGY Hymn 607
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.


*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Claunch

*HYMN #39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*


*BENEDICTION Rev. Bynum

POSTLUDE *Alles ist an Gottes Segen* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

MENTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your voice and presence would be a gift to our worship! If you would be willing to be a liturgist, please scan the QR code to the right or email the office at  broodal@lacny.org.



If you are interested in sponsoring flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please scan the QR code to the right or contact the office at broodal@lacny.org  to sign-up for upcoming Sunday!



- **Nursery Care:** Available on the ground floor of the education wing (Classroom 114) for infant and toddlers age 2 and below.

- **Sunday School Today:** Kids can be dropped off in their Sunday School classrooms prior to worship. They will join their families for communion at the end of the service.



The **LAC Christmas Gift program** is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to help the less fortunate among us while we celebrate the spirit of giving.

There are two ways you can help:

1. **Adopt an individual.** Use [Sign-Up Genius](#) to access gift wish lists and sign up to provide particular items.
2. **Donate funds.** Mail a check to LAC with "Christmas Gift Baskets" on the memo line. The C&C 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.

We have been overwhelmed by your generosity in the past and have faith that it will continue this year as well.

Please note that in February 2024 LAC will be partnering with **Bridges to Community**, a non-profit organization focused on providing service-learning opportunities. LAC is sending a team to the Dominican Republic! Any surplus funds collected for the Christmas Gift program will be directed to supporting the purchase of building material for the house they will construct. We feel you'll agree that this is an opportunity to share our Christmas bounty!

Thank you!

The Church & Community Committee

THIS WEEK AT LAC

Sun. Dec. 3

Sunday School 10:00 AM (Carhart & Lindsley)
Worship 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)
Advent Wreath
Workshop 11:00 AM (Russell Hall)
Coffee Hour 11:15 AM (Lindsley Room)

Mon. Dec. 4

Board Leaders 3:30 PM (Lindsley)

Tues. Dec. 5

Al Anon 6:45 PM (Library)
Deacons 7:00 PM (Zoom)
AA 7:15 PM (Carhart)

Tues.-Cont'd

West. Chorale 7:30PM (Russell Hall)

Wed. Dec. 6

Staff Meeting 11:00 AM (Lindsley)
TGIF 5:00 PM (Youth Rm)
SHIFT 6:15 PM (Youth Rm)
Symphonia 7:00 PM (Chapel)
Chancel Choir 7:45 PM (Russell Hall)

Thurs. Dec. 7

West. Ch. Chorus 4:00 PM (Russell)
AA 7:15 PM (Carhart)

Fri. Dec. 8

West. Ch. Chorus 4:00 PM
(All rooms)

Sat. Dec. 9

Midnight Run 3:00 PM
(Russell Hall, Carhart Hall)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - 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.

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

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39 CONTINUED

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베풀 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주