

# Larchmont Avenue Church

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

## **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

### December 10, 2023

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

# THE SERVICE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023

PRELUDE

*Veni Emmanuel*

John Trotta

INTROIT

*The Root of Jesse*

Douglas Kostner

*The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

MOMENT FOR MISSION

LAC Caroling

Melissa Manice

\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Wong Family

One: We have come this morning looking for comfort,

**All: searching for the One who gathers the lambs in his arms  
and gently leads the mother sheep.**

One: A prophet cries out in the wilderness, saying that the day is surely coming  
when mountains and hills will no longer be difficult to climb, when the  
rough places in the world will be smoothed out.

**All: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it  
together!**

One: We relight the first Advent candle

**All: to acknowledge the light of Hope.**

One: And we light the second Advent candle to light the way for the coming of  
Peace.

**All: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Sheb Swett

\*THE PEACE

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

\*OPENING HYMN #106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(in unison)*

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

**“Prepare the way of the Lord,” your prophet says to us.**

**Help us, O God, to prepare our hearts to meet you again. Forgive us for the  
times when we have failed to make room for you or stood in the way of your  
righteousness: when we have ignored the challenging words of your  
prophets... when we have walked around a neighbor in need... when we  
have made choices that serve our own interests instead of yours.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, for what we have done, and what we have left undone. We  
humbly ask you to smooth out the rough places in our lives. Lift us up out of  
the darkness, and make our paths straight, to the glory of your holy name...**

*(time for silent prayer)*

# ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*GLORIA

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)*

Anthony Manson

**O Lord, as your holy Word is read and proclaimed this morning, open eyes that are blind, unstop ears that struggle to hear, strengthen hands that are weak, and make our steps firm, so that we might walk in hope and faith through this Advent season. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 1:1-8

Anthony Manson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Bynum

The children of the church are invited to join the pastor on the chancel steps.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:1-11

Rev. Bynum

SERMON

“Rough Places”

ANTHEM

*Comfort Ye, My People*

Taylor Davis

Jenna Stufkoski, soloist

*Comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, saith our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them.  
Tell her that her sins I cover and that her warfare is over.  
  
The herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men repentance since now the kingdom is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away!  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.  
Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rough places plain.  
Let your hearts be comforted as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o'er the earth's shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 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)*

***Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!***

MOMENT FOR MISSION Stewardship - Growing Through Community and Faith John Farris

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Bynum

*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

*It's A Wonderful Life*  
Larchmont Symphonia

Dmitri Tiomkin

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*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.***

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

\*CLOSING HYMN #187 *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead us (verses 1 and 3)*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Bynum

POSTLUDE

*Carol of the Bells*  
Larchmont Symphonia

Mikhail Leontovich

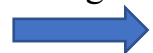
*NOTE: You are welcome to stay and listen to the Postlude,  
but there is no expectation that you remain seated at this time.*

*\*please stand if you are able*

**Congregational Meeting today** – At the end of today's service, there will be a special called meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, trustees, and members of the nominating committee.

### **MENTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Your voice and presence would be a gift to our worship! If you would be willing to a liturgist, please scan the QR code to the right or email the office at [broodal@lacny.org](mailto: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](mailto: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:** After the Children's Message, all kids are dismissed for Tiny Theologians Sunday School with Rev. Claunch.

## PAGEANT ANNOUNCEMENT

First Christmas Pageant rehearsal is today, in Carhart Hall following the Service.



### LAC Caroling on December 22<sup>nd</sup>

4:00 p.m. -- Gather at Manice Home (15 Locust Avenue) for caroling assignments;

6:00 p.m. -- Return to Manice Home for refreshments, music, and fun.

Please **RSVP by Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** by calling the office or emailing the following information to [laccaroling@gmail.com](mailto:laccaroling@gmail.com): *Are you participating in caroling, the party or both; how many adults and children in your group; and, if childcare is needed at the Manice Home, the names and ages of children needing childcare.*

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.

**Thank you!**

**The Church & Community Committee**

### THIS WEEK AT LAC

#### Sun. Dec. 10

Tiny Theologians 10:15 AM (Carhart & Lindsley)  
Worship & Congregational Meeting 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)  
Pageant Practice 11:15 AM (Carhart Hall)  
Coffee Hour 11:15 AM (Lindsley Room)

#### Mon. Dec. 11

Joint Board Meeting 7:00 PM (Carhart)

#### Tues. Dec. 12

AI Anon 6:45 PM (Library)  
Finance Committee 7:00 PM (Room 202)  
AA 7:15 PM (Carhart)  
West. Chorale 7:30 PM (Russell Hall)

#### Wed. Dec. 13

Staff Meeting 11:00 AM (Lindsley)  
TGIF & SHIFT 5:00 PM (Carhart)  
Symphonia 7:00 PM (Chapel)  
Chancel Choir 7:45 PM (Russell Hall)

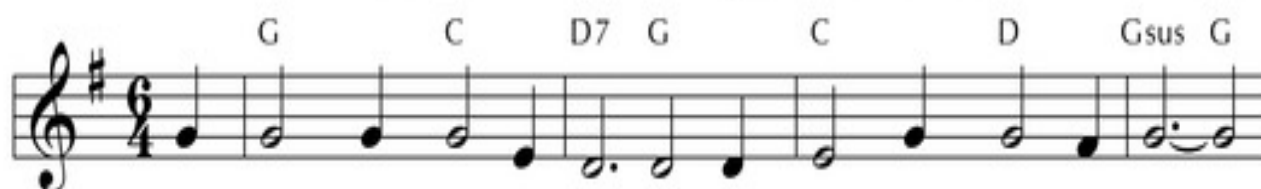
#### Thurs. Dec. 14

Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM (Lindsley)  
West. Ch. Chorus 4:00 PM (Russell)  
AA 7:15 PM (Carhart)

#### Sat. Dec. 16

Pageant Rehearsal 10:00 AM  
Youth Christmas Party 3:00 PM (AP Manse)  
Westchester Chorale  
Winter Concert 4:00 PM (Sanctuary)

# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



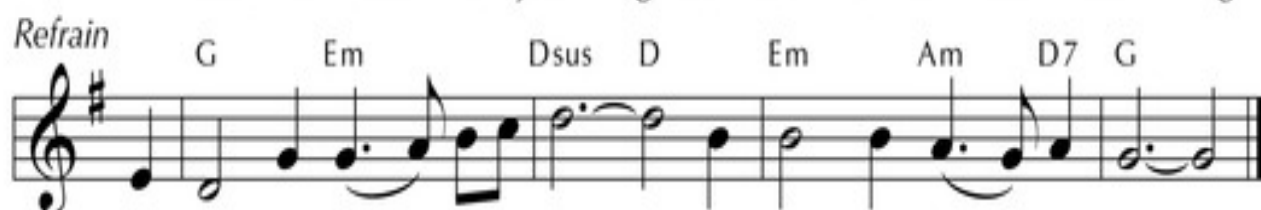
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



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.



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.



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 folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain



# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



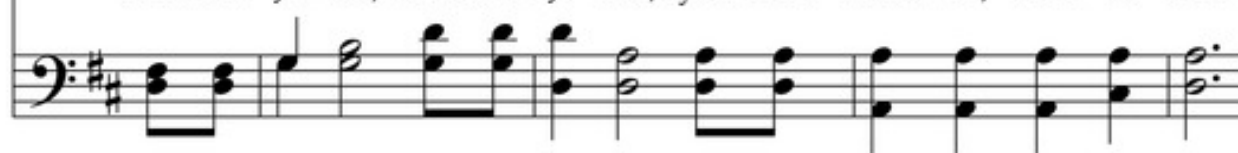
1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



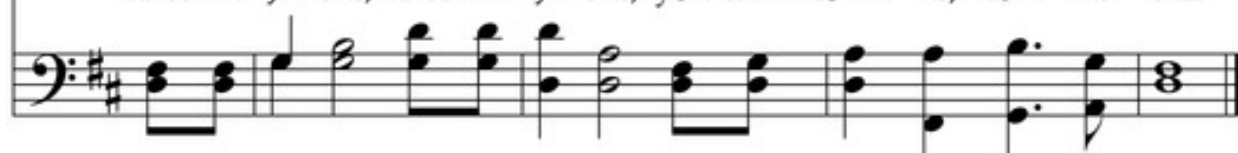
In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



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.  
 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.



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.

## CHURCH OFFICERS NOMINATIONS

Today at the meeting of the congregation of the Larchmont Avenue Church—on Sunday, December 10, 2023—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 2027.*

---

### DEACONS



Theresa Campion

Terri hails from Ridley Park, a Philadelphia suburb, and has lived in the New York city area since the 1980's. She is an actor/writer and educator with several interesting day jobs. Her first novel is due to be published this spring. **She moved to Larchmont in the fall of 2021** and is forever grateful to Peter and the LAC community for their generous warmth and support, and making her feel at home.



Melissa Manice

Melissa Manice and her husband Charles moved to Larchmont in 2016 and were excited to join LAC shortly thereafter. Two of their 4 children were baptized at LAC and they have loved being active members of the church, from Charles serving as a Trustee to Melissa serving on the Mission Realization Team as well as teaching Sunday School for numerous years. Melissa was previously a Deacon at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City.



Karen McGill

I have been a member of LAC for around 20 years. I feel very connected to this church, and have served on a number of Committees. I am very pleased to be returning to the Deacons.

Birgit Mengel

Birgit was brought up in Germany and moved to Larchmont in 1992, where she became a member of Larchmont Avenue Church. After living many years in Kansas, where she has earned a B.A. and M.S.E. at University of Kansas, she has rejoined Larchmont Avenue Church which she calls her spiritual home with its lively community, wonderful music, and inspiring sermons that ground and guide her every Sunday morning. She feels fortunate to share this experience with her daughter, her son in law, and their three children, and she is very excited about the opportunity to serve Larchmont Avenue Church as a deacon.





---

## SESSION

### Jeffrey Carpenter

Jeff, his wife Kristen and daughters Caitlyn and Elise joined LAC in 2012 after he received tremendous support from the MSKCC chaplains during inpatient cancer treatments. He works in financial services technology & data management and is a lifelong competitive tennis player. At LAC he sings bass in the choir and has served in various other ways such as Sunday School teacher and AP Nominating Committee member.



### Susan Doud

I came to Larchmont and the Larchmont Avenue Church with my family in the fall of 1995. My husband, Randall, and our four children became active in the Church at that time. Randall and the four children were baptized, and I joined the Deacons. The people we met at the Church were the first friends we made here in Larchmont, and many of them are friends now. I teach English as a Second Language four days a week at Bronx Community College. Time permitting, I have helped as a Pro Bono lawyer to represent clients of the Community Resource Center petitioning for immigration status.



### Jennifer Potts

I live in Larchmont with my husband, Cardwell, and two young children, Wells and Caroline. We've been members of LAC for the past two years and I'm looking forward to becoming more involved with LAC in this role. Originally from Minneapolis, I'm also an avid sailor and a corporate attorney.



### Wes Huang

Wes Huang has been a member of LAC since 2000, not long after he and his wife Suzy moved to Larchmont. They were initially attracted to the wonderful services and the warm and inviting congregation, and have not looked back since. Wes has previously served on Session, Trustees, Finance, Capital Projects and Stewardship. With three kids (Ryan, Alex and Melanie) having been baptized and confirmed at LAC, he has been an enthusiastic supporter of LAC's Youth Ministry program, whether as a volunteer, Faith Partner or chaperone, and looks forward to more opportunities to serve in the future!



---

## TRUSTEES



**Jay Barnes**

Jay Barnes resides in Larchmont with his wife Veronica, children Clara, Grantham and Sterling, and dog Fred. The Barnes family joined LAC in 2015 after moving to town from New York City. Jay is a managing director at Greenhill & Co. and spends the spring and summer coaching youth baseball to the detriment of his golf game. Veronica is an active volunteer and has held leadership positions with several organizations including the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation, the Murray Avenue School PTA and Hommocks PTA. The Barnes children all attend the Mamaroneck public schools and are active in sports, music and video games. Jay previously served on the LAC Board of Trustees and his children are active in TGIF and the Sunday School, where Jay also attempts to teach.



**Karen Isaac**

Karen Isaac, a Larchmont, NY, resident since 1986, is a former PR professional (corporate, consulting & agency), community volunteer and mother of four.

Karen has had leadership positions in numerous civic, community, performing arts, religious, educational & athletic activities. Board positions have included: the Emelin Theatre of Performing Arts, Larchmont Ave Presbyterian Church, Junior League of Westchester on the Sound & Larchmont Temple Religious School Board. Golf, family & friends are her particular passions.

Her husband, Paul, has a hedge fund: Arbiter Partners.



**Rebecca Reisman**

For sixty-three years, I've worshipped at the Larchmont Ave Church. I've enjoyed attending Sunday School, teaching Sunday School, and volunteering at the Rummage Sale. I'm looking forward to serving on the Board of Trustees.

Suzy Yamaguchi

## YOUTH DEACONS

---



William DeFelice

My name is Will DeFelice. I am 15 years old and a sophomore at Mamaroneck High School. I have been a part of the LAC community for as long as I can remember. I attended Sunday School up until my confirmation last year. I also went on the mission trip to the US-Mexico border last February. I look forward to my time serving as a youth deacon.



John Quinn Sykes

Hi my name is John Sykes. I am 15, in sophomore year and I have been a part of LAC for 14 years. I was in Sunday school for many years, was confirmed last year and also went on last year's mission trip. I am looking forward to giving back to the church and helping people by becoming a youth deacon.





Jim Hanley

Becoming a member of the Larchmont Ave. Church community in 1997 has been a wonderful experience for me and my family. Our involvement in the life of the church has created many opportunities to support LAC and the broader community.

Serving as the coordinator for the Midnight Run for the Homeless keeps LAC in touch with our partners at Larchmont Temple and several other community organizations. Our monthly Runs to NYC engage folks of all ages in supporting our friends on the street. Collaborating with Peter, Anna Grace and previous pastors as a Faith Partner has opened my eyes to my own journey of faith while supporting our LAC youth in their own journey. And participating in several trips to Nicaragua has deepened my bond with many members of our congregation. A longtime member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee allows me to apply my construction background to our beautiful facility. Other activities include serving on past nominating committees and serving on the Pastor search committee that brought Peter Bynum to LAC.



Clark Morehouse

I have been a member of the Larchmont Avenue Church since 1983. In that time, I have served on virtually every Board, including Trustees, Deacons, Session, where I was Clerk for many years. Additionally, I've served on numerous search committees, captained an ushering team, and taught Sunday school. I am a retired media executive, who lives in Larchmont with my wife Susan. We have three grown children.



Mary Sykes

Mary Sykes has been member of LAC for over 10 years. She has two children, Katie and John Quinn, who grew up in LAC as well as her husband John who is an active member. Mary has served on the nominating committee previously as well as the pastor nominating committee. She is grateful for an opportunity to serve the church and loves the new people that she meets and the deeper connections she is able to form while serving on church committees.