



Larchmont Avenue Church

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2023

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

PRELUDE *Quelle Est cette Odeur Agréable?* Evelyn Larter
Alex Pak, violin; Jordan Pak, viola

INTROIT *I Rejoiced* Douglas Kostner
I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the Lord's house."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Barnes Family

One: We have come this morning to the house of God;

All: not a structure built with human hands, but a congregation of the faithful.

One: God's dwelling place is wherever God's people may be,

All: in houses or in tents, in cities and hamlets, in hearts, minds, and spirits.

One: We relight the first Advent candle

All: to acknowledge the Light of Hope.

One: We relight the second Advent candle

All: to herald the coming of the Prince of Peace.

One: We relight the third Advent candle

All: as a sign of the Joy that Christ is bringing.

One: And we light the fourth Advent candle to proclaim the unstoppable power of God's Love for the world.

All: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

*THE PEACE

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

*OPENING HYMN #129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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

An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!" And yet, we often find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know.

Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary. Help us, like her, to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us receive the good news that she first heard and believed: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA *Hymn 584*

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high! (2x)
And on earth peace to all 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)*

As we open your word, O Lord, we ask you to look with favor on the lowliness of your servants. As we hunger for your wisdom, we ask you to fill us with good things. As we seek your star in the heavens, guide us to your peace, your hope, and your love.
Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 1:26-55

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Claunch

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Rev. Bynum

SERMON

“The Lord Will Make You a House”

Rev. Bynum

ANTHEM

Magnificat

Healey Willan

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden, for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with His arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen His servant Israel. As He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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)

Amen. Amen. Amen. 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

Build Your House

Pepper Choplin

*Build your house on the strong and solid rock.
Build a firm foundation on the rock of our salvation.
You know that only the foolish man will build his house on the soft and sinking sand.
Come and build your house on the solid rock.
When the floods are rising up and the rains are pouring down, and the winds are blowing all around.
If you listen to me and hear my words and build your life on the things you've heard,
You'll be strong and you'll press on to stand through any storm.*

*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.***

*CLOSING HYMN #110

Love Has Come

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Bynum

POSTLUDE

Somewhere in My Memory
Alex Pak, violin


John Williams

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*

MENTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This evening's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Warren and Thelma Serenbetz by the Serenbetz family

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.



Christmas Poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones and friends:

Jim and Pat Allen in memory of Stan and Mary Lou Reeves ♦ The Beaver family in memory of Gemmie and Dida ♦ Rev. Dr. Peter and Stephanie Bynum in memory of Jan and Grady Hennings ♦ The Flickinger/Christiansen family ♦ In memory of John Claunch and Tripp Frohlichstein by Rev. Anna Grace Claunch ♦ In memory of Erika Lomitzky by the Leissl Family ♦ In memory of John J. Mackey and Louise Mackey Johnson by Marie Mackey ♦ In memory of our loved ones by Adrian and Christel Pugin ♦ The Serenbetz family ♦ We remember Kay and Bill Currie, Larry and Jean Morehouse by the Morehouse family ♦ In memory of Eric Almquist from the Almquist family

THIS WEEK AT LAC

Sun. Dec. 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)
Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 PM (Sanctuary)
Christmas Eve Traditional Service 8:00 PM (Sanctuary)

LAC OFFICE CLOSED

Monday December 25th thru Friday December 29th

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung,
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."