



*Nativity by Giotto (1303-05)*

# Larchmont Avenue Church

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE**

December 24, 2023  
5 PM

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

# CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

PRELUDE

*Two Carols for Flutes:  
Silent Night; I Saw Three Ships*  
Nico Crevier, Claudia Huter, Imogen Morrall, flute; Steve Huter, piano

Arr. Melvin Lauf

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Irving Family

One: Behold I bring you good news of great joy; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

All: **His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.**

One: His authority shall grow, and his peace will spread.

All: **He will rule with justice and goodness forevermore.**

One: As we light these candles, we proclaim...

God's hope...

God's peace...

God's joy...

God's love...

And now, tonight, the birth of God's Son.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth! Alleluia!**

\*CAROL 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

\*CAROL 88 (VERSE 1)

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

THE ANGEL'S VISIT

Luke 1:26-33

\*CAROL 112 (VERSE 1)

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

***On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring  
On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring  
News of great joy, news of great mirth News of our merciful King's birth***

THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Luke 2:1-7

\*CAROL 121 (VERSE 1)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

THE ANGELS

Luke 2:8-14

\*CAROL 113 (VERSE 1)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains:  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Bynum

SERMON

“That’s What Christmas is All About, Charlie Brown”

VOLUNTARY

*Carol of the Bells*

Arr. Sharon Wilson

Nico Crevier, Claudia Huter, Imogen Morrall, flute; Steve Huter, piano

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

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Arr. Victor Labenske

Ben Wien & Douglas Kostner, piano

\*CAROL 119 (VERSE 1)

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

SHARING THE LIGHT/CANDLES:

*At this time, the light of Christ will be passed through the congregation.*

*For ease, dip your unlit candle, wick-down, to the flame of your neighbor's lit candle.*

*Likewise, hold your lit candle upright for your neighbor, who will draw light from yours.*

\*CAROL 122

*Silent Night*

***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"***

***Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Bynum

\*CAROL 134

*Joy to the World*

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.***

POSTLUDE

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

Arr. Michael Tyree

Nicole Sharlow & Elyse Mullen, violin;  
Lydia Leiman, viola; E. Zoe Hassman, cello

*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 "Lighting the Advent Wreath" liturgy is from Brian Wren's *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and is reproduced by permission. Copyright ©2007 by Brian Wren.

Today's Sanctuary flowers are in loving memory of Warren and Thelma Serenbetz by the Serenbetz family.

Please note that the LAC office will be closed from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>.



### **Christmas Poinsettias** were given by

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.



## O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.