



*Nativity by Giotto (1303-05)*

# Larchmont Avenue Church

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

## **CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONAL SERVICE**

December 24, 2023

8 PM

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

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

PRELUDES

*Veni Emmanuel*  
*Ukrainian Carol*  
Larchmont Symphonia

Arr. John Trotta  
Arr. Alison Gillies

*Two Carols for Flutes: Silent Night; I Saw Three Ships* Arr. Melvin Lauf, Jr.  
Melanie Huang, Claudia Huter, Imogen Morrall, flute; Steve Huter, piano

*Two Spanish Carols: El Belén Tocan a Fuego; El Noi de la Mare* Arr. Mark Hellem  
*It's a Wonderful Life* Dmitri Tiomkin  
Larchmont Symphonia

INTROIT

*Gloria in Excelsis* Douglas Kostner  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis,*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Leissl Family

One: The Light of the World has come for us; a child has been born for us.

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

One: Once we were no people;

All: **Now we are God's people.**

One: Once we walked in darkness;

All: **Now we have seen a great light. Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth. Alleluia!**

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

God's hope... God's peace... God's joy... God's love...

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

All: **For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord!**

\*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 SHEPHERDS AND HEAVENLY HOST Luke 2:8-20

Rev. Bynum

SERMON

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

ANTHEM

*How Great Our Joy*

Craig Courtney

*While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright. How great our joy, how great our  
joy. There shall be born, so did he say, In Bethlehem a Child today. How great our joy, how great our joy. There shall*

*a Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all. This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill. Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! How great our joy, how great our joy.*

## 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

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Dan Forrest

*Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth. Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth. **Refrain:** Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King! Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. **Refrain.** Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar. Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen his natal star. **Refrain.** All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One! **Refrain.***

## \*CAROL 119

*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!"***

## PRAYER OF ADORATION & DEDICATION

### SHARING THE LIGHT

*(After the first verse of "Night of Silence" is sung by the Choir, the congregation will join in singing "Silent Night." At that time, candlelight will be passed along. As your candle is lit, please turn to a neighbor to light theirs.)*

## \*CAROL 122

*Night of Silence*

Arr. Daniel Kanto

*Cold are the people, winter of life, We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night. Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise; Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, its flame will be dying soon.!*

***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

*Ya Viene la Vieja*  
Larchmont Symphonia

Arr. Mark Hellem

*NOTE: You are welcome to stay seated for the Postlude, but there is no expectation that you do so. Feel free to share Christmas greetings!*  
*\*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.

This evening's Sanctuary flowers have been given in loving memory of Warren and Thelma Serenbetz by the Serenbetz family.

We welcome and offer our deep gratitude for the following musicians in tonight's service:

Flute:

Claudia Huter  
Melanie Huang  
Imogen Morrall

Piano:

Steve Huter  
Ben Wien

Violin 1:

Nicole Sharlow  
Brynn Coady  
Isla Dapkins  
Morris Schoeneman  
James Tiebout  
Kimi Wei

Cello:

Zoe Hassman  
Nola Coady  
Gent Malushaga

Violin 2:

Noel Dobias  
Ava Albano  
Liana Haigis  
Timmy O'Hara  
Mia Reisman  
Mikey Sullivan  
Juliet Wei

Bass:

Boots Maleson  
Ellie Zeballos  
Isaac Dapkins

Viola:

Lydia Leizman  
Caitlyn Carpenter  
Emily Jaswal  
Annie Jaswal  
Sara Zeballos



### **Christmas Poinsettias** have been 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 ♦ 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.