



Beginning Again by Jan Richardson

Larchmont Avenue Church

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS
December 31, 2023

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium
Jordan Pak, viola

Arr. Raymond Haan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 90)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth
and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our
hands —

O prosper the work of our hands!

Let us worship God!

*THE PEACE

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

*OPENING HYMN #143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

**Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look
back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed
opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have
spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives
through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which
you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.**

**As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves.
Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your
heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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)

Almighty God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, may it not return to you empty. May it accomplish that which you purpose. May it succeed in the thing for which you sent it. Open our ears and hearts to your Word that we may live as your children and heirs. Amen.

PSALTER

Psalm 148

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

SERMON

*HYMN #146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

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!

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

In Dulci Jubilo
Alex Pak, violin

Arr. Jason Krug

*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 #113 Angels We have Heard on High

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cold December Flies Away
Alex Pak, violin

Arr. Lee Burswold

*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

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.



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 resumes Sunday January 7th.**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

LAC Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

6:45 pm Al-Anon (Library)

7:15 pm AA (Carhart Room/Chapel)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

11:00 am Staff Meeting (Lindsley Room)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

7:15 pm AA (Carhart/Chapel)



CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

pbynum@lacny.org Ext. 308

Associate Pastor

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

agclaunch@lacny.org Ext. 303

Director of Music Ministry

Douglas Kostner

dkostner@lacny.org Ext. 307

Secretary/Communications Director

Betty Roodal

broodal@lacny.org Ext. 302

Bookkeeper

Gloria Haq

ghaq@lacny.org Ext. 310

LAC Preschool Director

Kristin DeFelice

preschooldirector@lacny.org
(914) 834-3984, www.lacpreschool.com

Tammy Cosentino, Admin. Assistant

adminassistant@lacny.org

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146



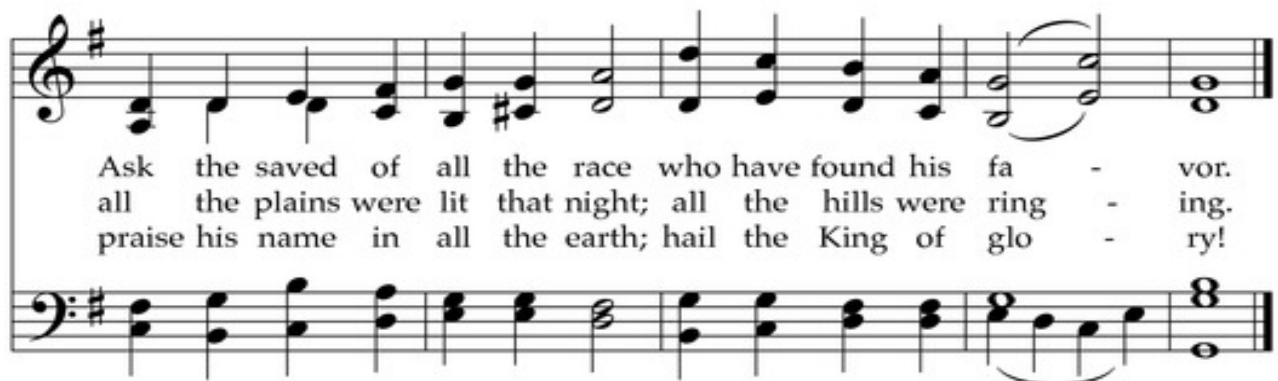
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.