



*Art by John Stushie*

# Larchmont Avenue Church

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 12, 2024

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

# THE SERVICE OF THE LORD

May 12, 2024

PRELUDE

*Here Is Love*  
Alex Pak, violin

Arr. Timothy Shaw

INTROIT

*God Is Love* Douglas Kostner  
*God is love, and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ gives us a new commandment:

**“Love one another as I have loved you.”**

When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live lives full of joy.

**We will live with God’s love deep in our hearts.**

Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

**Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!**

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

\*OPENING HYMN #14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

**Tender God, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us, that ignores your less convenient commandments and fails to bear fruit in which anyone would rejoice. How can a faith like that conquer the world? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.** *(time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*GLORIA (#582, verse 1)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:7-8

Alex Pak, violin and Jordan Pak, viola

*There is no greater love, says the Lord,  
Than to lay down your life for a friend;  
There is no greater love, no greater love,  
Than to lay down your life for a friend.*

*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;  
Live on in my love.*

*You will live in my love if you keep my commands  
Even as I have kept my Father's.*

*All this I tell you that my joy may be yours,  
And your joy may be complete.  
Love one another as I have loved you:  
This is my command.*

*You are my friends if you keep my commands,  
No longer slaves, but friends to me.  
All I heard from my Father, I have made known to you:  
Now I call you friends.*

*It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you,  
Chose you to go forth and bear fruit.  
Your fruit must endure, so you will receive  
All you ask the Father in my name.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Bynum

## GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

SERMON "Christ's Commandment is Like Two Strangers and a Grilled Cheese Sandwich"

Rev. Claunch

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #366, verse 1

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Bynum

**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

*Meditation from Thaïs*  
Alex Pak, violin

Jules Massenet

## \*DOXOLOGY #609

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise God, all creatures high and low.***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #300      “We Are One in the Spirit  
(They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love)”

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Claunch

## \*POSTLUDE

*Fantasie No. 1 in G Minor*  
Alex Pak, violin

Florence Price

*NOTE: You are welcome to stay and listen to the Postlude,  
but there is no expectation that you remain seated during this time.  
Feel free to get up and greet your neighbors!*

## MENTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's flowers are given Paul Serenbetz in loving memory of Thelma Serenbetz by her family.

- Nursery Care is available on the ground floor of the education wing (Classroom 114) for infants and toddlers up to age 2.
- Youth Group for middle and high schoolers meets on Wednesday evenings in the Youth Room. Use the QR Code to view the Spring 2024 Youth Calendar. Questions? Email [agclaunch@lacny.org](mailto:agclaunch@lacny.org).



### THIS WEEK AT LAC

#### SUNDAY, MAY 12

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)  
11:15 am Coffee Hour (Russell Hall)

#### TUESDAY, MAY 14

6:45 pm Al-Anon (Library)  
7:00 pm Finance Committee (Rm 202)  
7:15 pm AA (Carhart)

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

11:00 am Staff Meeting (Lindsley)  
5:00 pm Youth Group (Youth Room)  
7:00 pm Larchmont Symphonia (Chapel)  
7:45 pm Chancel Choir (Russell Hall)

#### THURSDAY, MAY 16

8:30 am Men's Bible Study  
4:00 pm Westchester Children's Chorus  
7:15 pm AA (Carhart)

#### FRIDAY, MAY 17

11:00 am Woman's Club of Larchmont (Carhart)

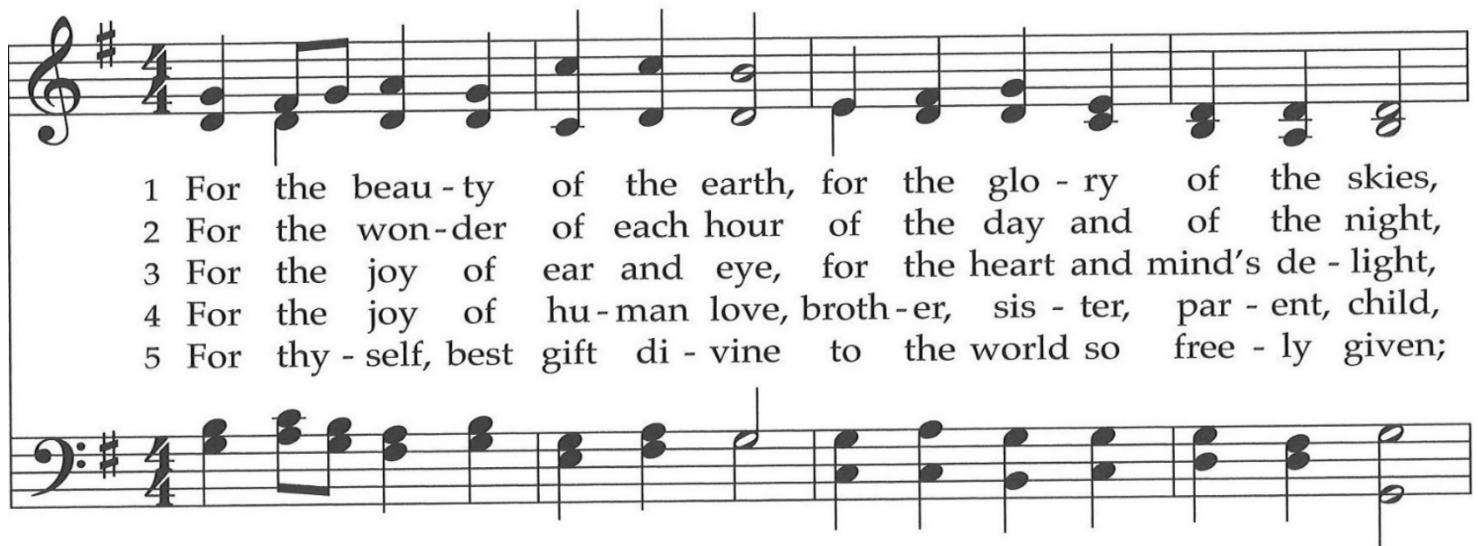
#### SATURDAY, MAY 18

1:00 pm Larchmont Music Academy Recital (Sanctuary)  
4:00 pm Midnight Run (Russell Hall)  
6:00 pm Progressive Dinner

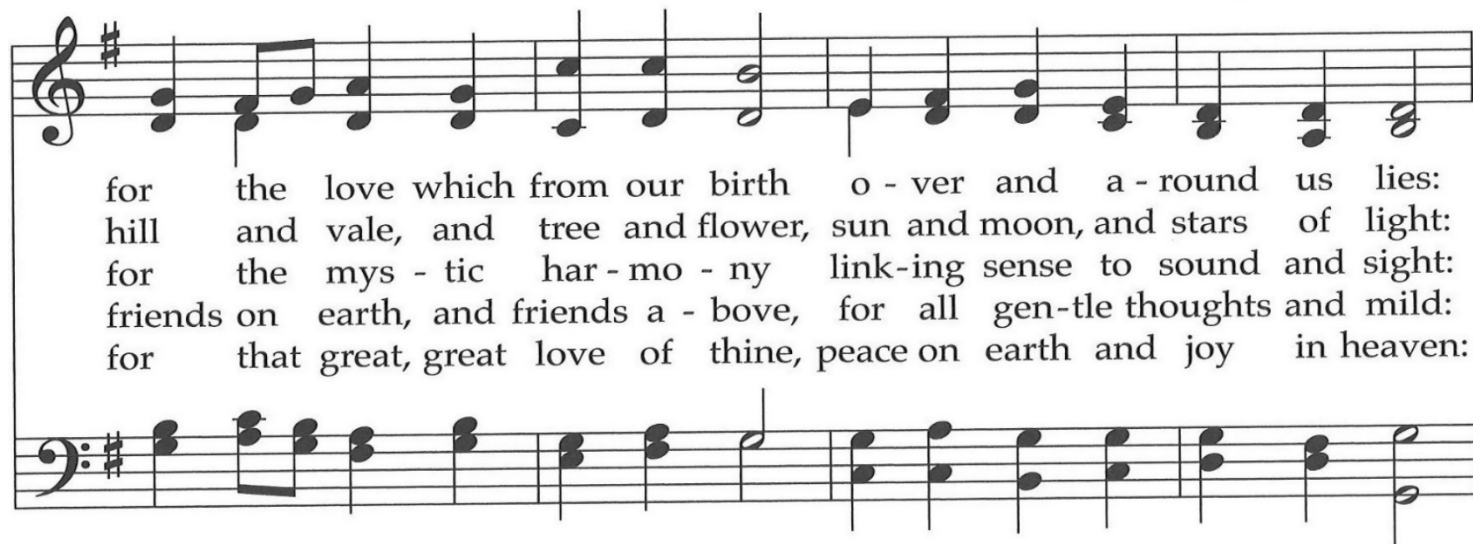


## For the Beauty of the Earth

14

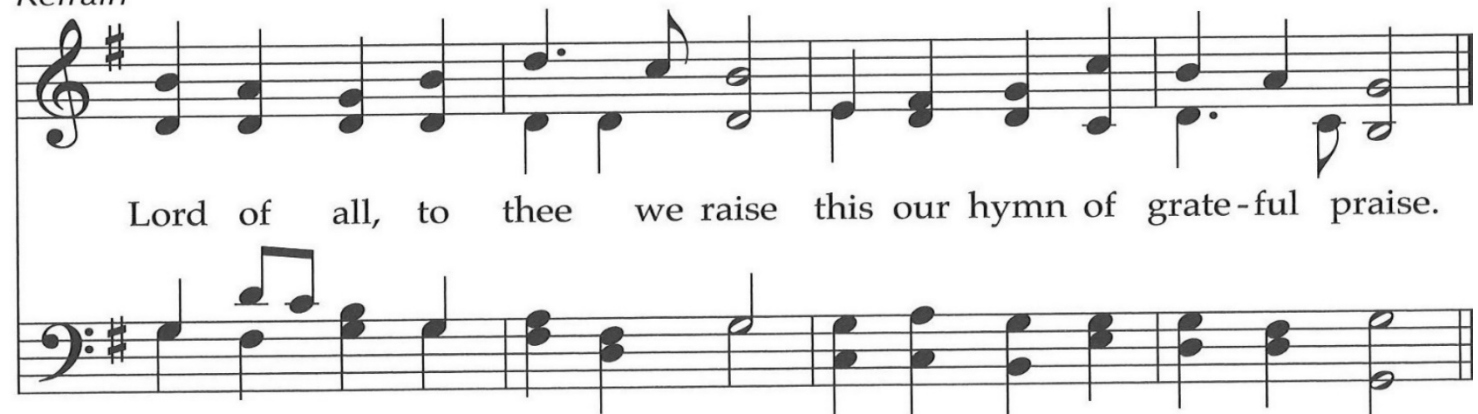


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

## Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.



# We Are One in the Spirit

## They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

300

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;  
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) Bbm (Em) Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,  
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) Bbm (Em) Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) Db (Em) Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) Bbm (Em) Fm (Am) Bbm (Bm) Cm (Em) (Am/E) (Em) Fm Bbm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.