



Drawn by Mia Anderson (9th grade)

Larchmont Avenue Church

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

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



PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Arr. Lee Burswold
Nicole Sharlow, violin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** The Nodell Family

One: When I look around, I see sorrow's ache—families grieving,
people longing for community, hearts carrying old wounds.

**All: I see grief like winter frost—settling on memories,
settling on shoulders, making the world feel heavy and still.**

One: Into this chill, we kindle a flame of joy...
(Lighting of first, second, and third candles.)

**All: Into every empty room and aching heart,
we light a candle of joy.**

One: May this light remind us that joy is not the absence of sorrow,
but the courage to keep singing.

**All: May it declare that God's joy rises even in the cracks,
even in the quiet.**

One: Children of God, do not fear—joy is finding us again.

***THE PEACE**

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

***OPENING HYMN #140** *Once in Royal David's City*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison) Rev. Claunch

**Righteous God, we confess that we have failed to love as you call us
to love. Instead of serving you and serving others, we have served
our own needs and satisfied our own wants. Forgive us for our sins,
Lord, and look with mercy upon us. As our children lead us in
worship today, we ask you to give us child-like love, faith, hope, and
trust, to the glory of your holy name... *(time for silent prayer)***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA #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)

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Financial gifts may be shared via Realm, by scanning the QR code here or via pledge cards found in the pew or at the rear of the sanctuary.

OFFERTORY

Fling Wide the Door
Cameron Gray, violin

Arr. Lee Burswold

PRAYER

(in unison)

Graeme Rosenthal

O Lord, we offer these gifts to you in faith, hope, and love. As we prepare to hear and experience the beloved story of your birth once more, we ask you to clear away the clutter in our minds and our hearts. Through the words of angels and children, speak to us with grace and generosity, so that we too may see, and hear, and follow. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Children of LAC

Scene 1: The PROPHEETS

Responsive Hymn #83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (vs. 1)*
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Scene 2: A DECREE FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS

Responsive Hymn #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1)*
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Scene 3: The BIRTH OF JESUS

Responsive Hymn #115 *Away in a Manger (vs. 1)*
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Scene 4: THE SHEPHERDS

Responsive Hymn *Do You Hear What I Hear? (vss. 1 and 2)*
Said the night wind to the little lamb, do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb, do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night,
with a tail as big as a kite, with a tail as big as a kite.
Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear? A
song, a song, high above the trees, with a voice as big as the sea, with a
voice as big as the sea.

Scene 5: The ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARS

Responsive Hymn #118 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* (vss. 1,3,4)

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the
ground,
an angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory
shone around.*

*“To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the
sign.”*

*“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid,
and in a manger laid.”*

Scene 6: THE HEAVENLY HOST

Responsive Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1)

*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!*

Scene 7: The SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

Responsive Hymn #145 *What Child Is This* (vs. 1)

*What child is this who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are
keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the king Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud The babe, the son of Mary!*

Scene 8: THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

Responsive Hymn #151 We Three Kings (vs. 1)

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Scene 9: AND THE REST IS HISTORY

Responsive Hymn #122 Silent Night (The Children of LAC)

CLOSING HYMN #134 *Joy to the World (vss. 1 and 4)*

***BENEDICTION** Emma Kulzer

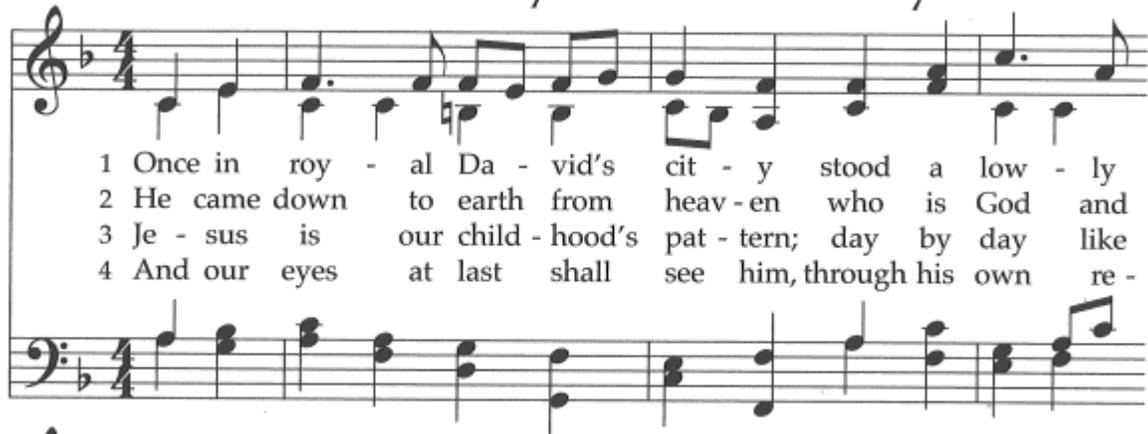
***POSTLUDE** “Noël Étranger” Louis-Claude Daquin

*Please stand if you are able.

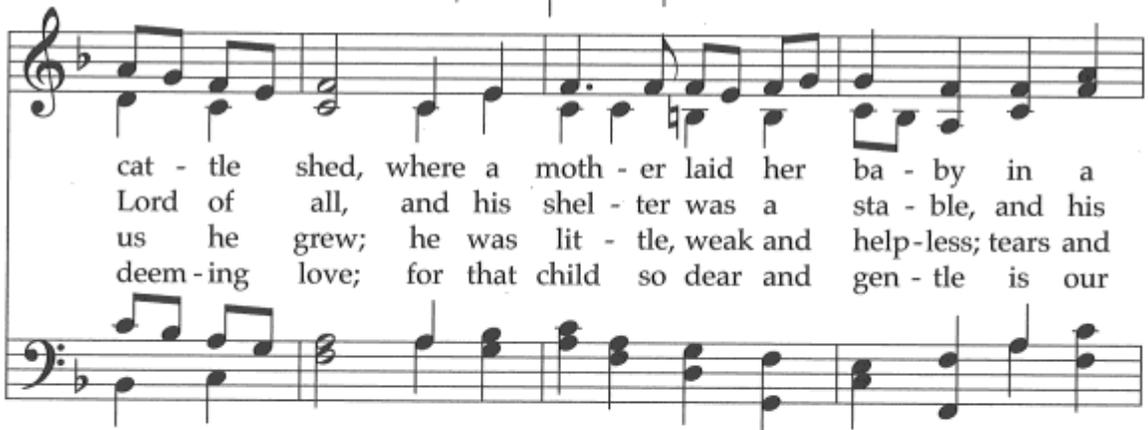
The Children of LAC:

Jack Oleson	Teddy Nodell
Emily Shostak	Sophia Kippax
Sloane Nodell	Zoe Widner
Mae Manice	Anna Meintjes
Grey Harvey	Nate Shannon
Nigel Anderson	Brewster Gottsch
Caroline Potts	Mila Widner
Christopher Reisman	Gretchen Gottsch
Oliver Manice	Emma Kulzer
Mia Anderson	Nicholas Oleson
Nina Gedney	Jacob Kippax
Owen Reisman	Isla Shannon
Christian Meintjes	Finley Manice
Timothy Wien	Wells Potts
Cecily Curran	Anna Rosenthal

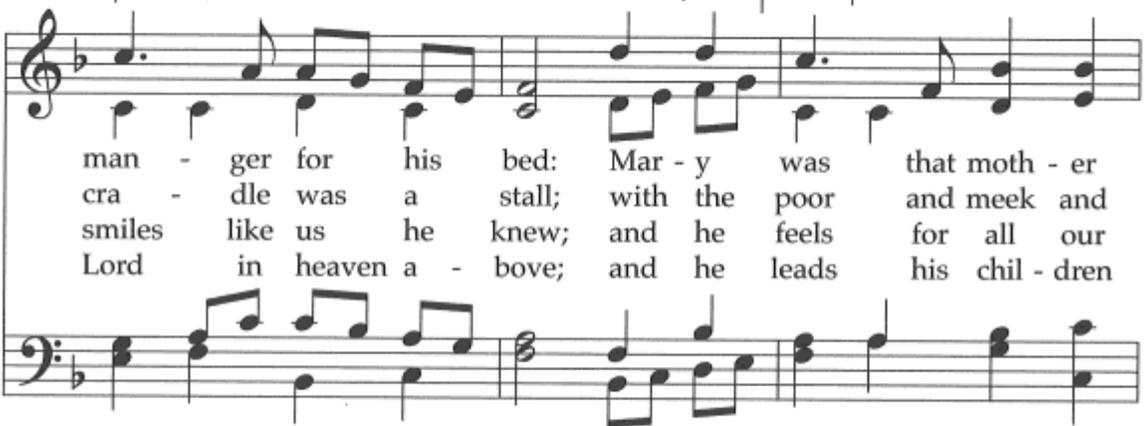
Once in Royal David's City 140



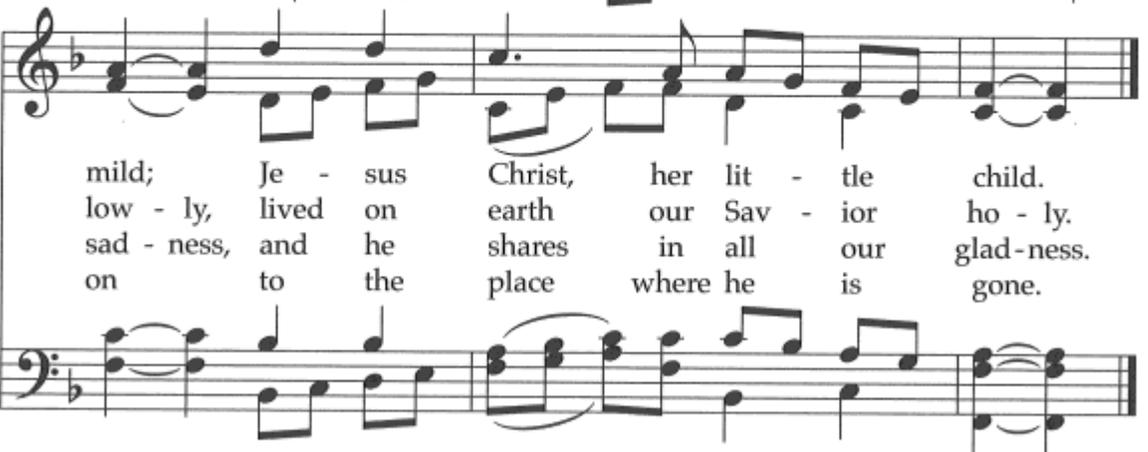
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren



mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
on to the place where he is gone.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

Announcements & Happenings

FLOWERS & PRAYERS

Do you have a prayer request to share? Call our prayer line (914) 834-1800, ext. 342.

Christmas Poinsettias: Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Suggested donation is \$30/plant. Sign up by 12/21 (www.lacny.org/givingpage). Select Poinsettia option in the drop-down menu.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Sunday 12/21 – Christmas Open House at the Manse (181 Larchmont Avenue). 4-6 pm.

Monday 12/22 Blue Christmas Service 7 pm

MUSIC

Dec 21: Pianist: Ben Wien & LAC Advent Choir
Christmas Eve 5 PM service: Flautists: Melanie Huang, Claudia Huter, Nico Crevier, Imogen Morrall. String Quartet.

Christmas Eve: 8 PM service: Larchmont Symphonia, LAC Christmas Choir. Flautists: Melanie Huang, Claudia Huter, Nico Crevier, Imogen Morrall. Harpist: Debra Whitman. Pianist Ben Wien

SERVICE

The LAC Holiday Basket program is accepting donations: Purchase and wrap gifts by Dec 12 listed on a family wish list @

signupgenius.com/go/5080A4CACAC29A31-60750083-lacchristmas#/

Donate funds on the [LAC website Giving Page](#) (select Christmas Basket Fund in the dropdown menu) or mail check to LAC (mark Christmas Basket Fund on the memo line)

THIS WEEK AT LAC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)
11:00 am Coffee Hour (Russell Hall)
11:15 am Confirmation Class (Carhart)
5:00 pm Compassionate Friends
Annual Candle Lighting
(Russell Hall)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 am Preschool Holiday Music
(Russell Hall)
11:00 am Staff Meeting (Lindsley)
12:00 pm Staff Christmas Luncheon
7:00 pm Symphonia (Chapel)
7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Russell)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Preschool Cookie
Decorating
7:15 pm AA

STAY CONNECTED

Visit: www.lacny.org

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Associate Pastor : Rev. Anna Grace Claunch
(agclaunch@lacny.org,
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