

Larchmont Avenue Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

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



PRELUDE “Aberystwyth” Arr. Alan Rees

INTROIT “Prepare Ye” Stephen Schwartz
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

MOMENT FOR MISSION *Caroling with LAC* Melissa Manice

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

One: While the world still trembles with war, while our streets
remember violence, and our hearts carry unrest, we light a
candle of peace...*(Lighting of candle.)*

**All: While hatred tries to rule the day and swords have not yet
become ploughshares, we kindle a flame of peace.**

One: May this gentle fire teach us to breathe again.

**All: May it whisper the promise that peace is possible, because
God is weaving it even now.**

One: Children of God, do not fear—peace is drawing near.

***OPENING HYMN #106** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)* Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

**Gracious God, your vision of peace is so lofty that it seems out of
reach to us. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so
we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called
good. Forgive us, Lord. Turn us away from destructive paths, and
make us truly sorry for the ways we have strayed. Lead us to
honest repentance in this holy season...**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORIA (#584)**

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*THE PEACE

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

STORY BEHIND THE SONG and STORY OF THE SEASON

“The Christmas Guest” by Helen Steiner Rice
*Told by Peter Bynum, Douglas Kostner,
and the Chancel Choir
Music arranged by Douglas Kostner*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

“Repent!”

Rev. Bynum

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #163 *(verse 1)*

*Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will: "Turn
from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control."*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God. **It is right to give God
thanks and praise...**

SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your Glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna
in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” Jacques Berthier
(Choir and Congregation singing)
In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the 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 “Il n’est rien de plus tendre” Jean-François Dandrieu
(“*There is nothing more tender*”)

*DOXOLOGY #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.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***CLOSING HYMN #87** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Bynum

POSTLUDE “Mais on san es allé Nau?” Jean-François Dandrieu
(“*But where has Noël gone?*”)

*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.*

*Please stand if you are able.

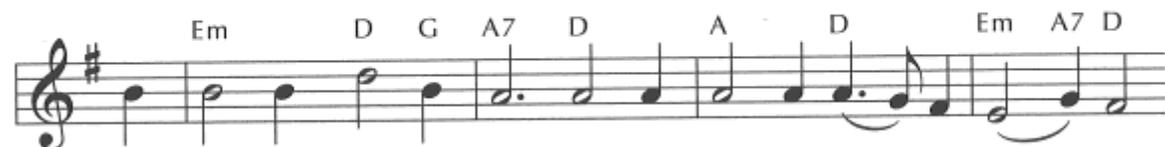
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

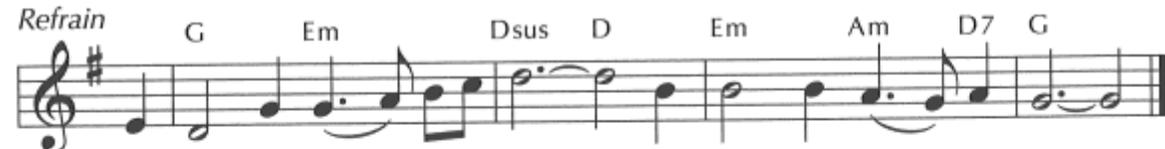


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

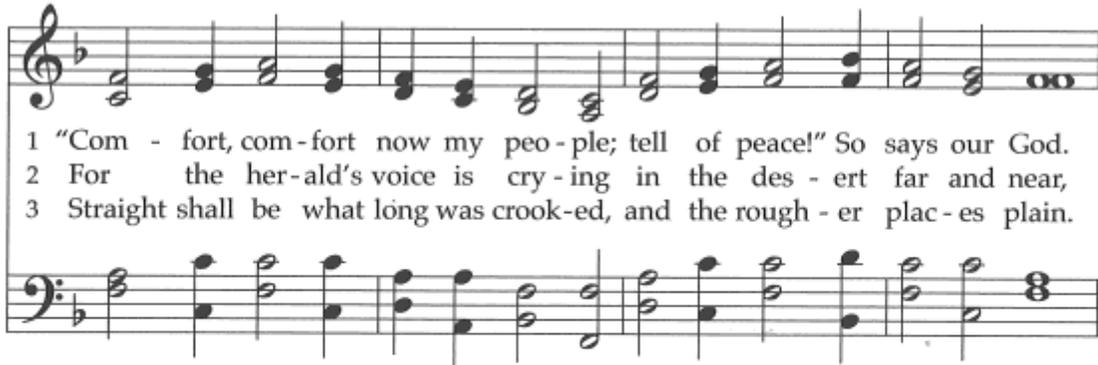
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

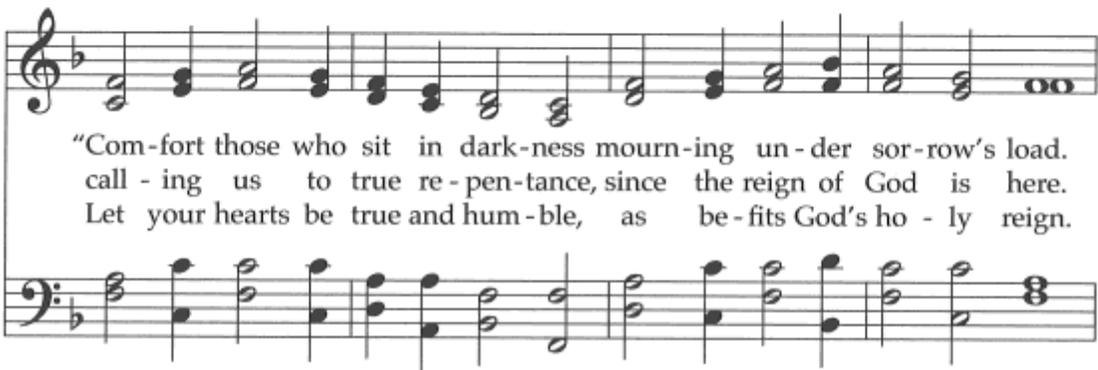
TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

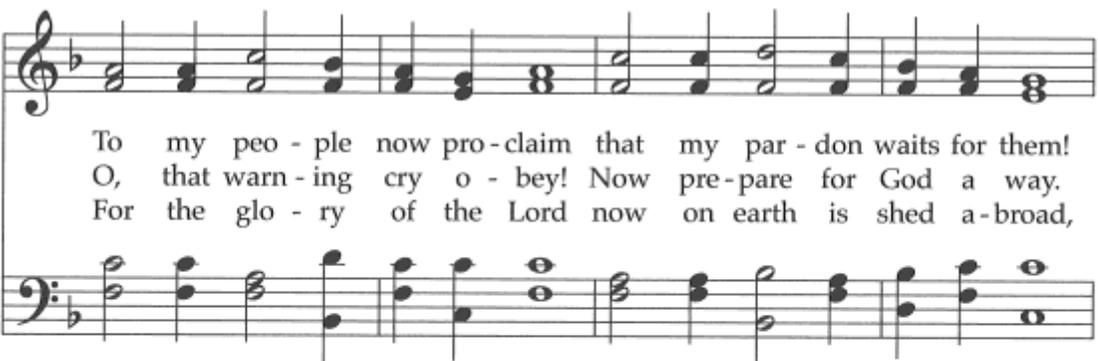
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



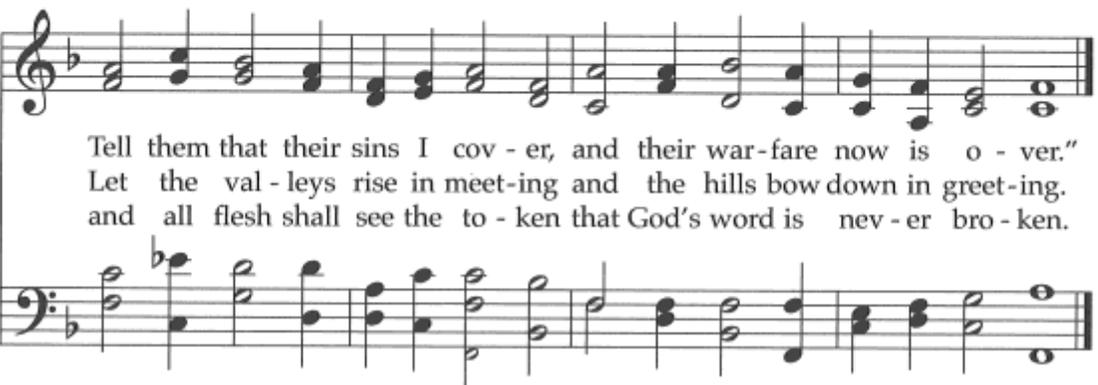
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un-der sor-row's load.
call - ing us to true re-pen-tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro-claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a-broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Announcements & Happenings

- The flowers today are donated in loving memory of Warren and Thelma Serenbetz, and Warren Serenbetz, Jr., by their family.
- 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.

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERINGS IN DECEMBER

Dec 7: LAC Advent Choir

Dec 14: Student String Quartet: Isla Dapkins, Juliet Wei, Nicole Sharlow, Nola Coady. Harpist: Debra Whitman

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.

The LAC Holiday Basket program is accepting donations. You can donate two ways:

1. Purchase and wrap gifts by Dec 12 listed on a family wish list @ signupgenius.com/go/5080A4CACAC29A31-60750083-lacchristmas#
2. Donate funds. The C&C committee will use monetary donations to purchase holiday treats, hats, scarves, small games, body lotion, and food gift cards to fill a basket for each family. Donations can be made on the [LAC website Giving Page](#) by selecting Christmas Basket Fund in the dropdown menu on the

giving page, or by mailing a check to LAC with Christmas Basket Fund on the memo line.

[Visit: www.lacny.org](http://www.lacny.org)

Senior Pastor : Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
(pbynum@lacny.org, 914-834-1800 ext. 308)
Associate Pastor : Rev. Anna Grace Claunch
(agclaunch@lacny.org, 914-834-1800 ext. 303)



Notice of Congregational Meeting: At the end of the worship service, a meeting of the congregation of the Larchmont Avenue Church will be called for the purpose of electing new church officers and three at-large members of the 2026 All-Church Nominating Committee.