



"Blind Leading the Blind," Michael Hermesh (2013)

Larchmont Avenue Church

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

August 16, 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost

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



PRELUDE

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Arr. John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

***THE PEACE**

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 5)*

One: Give ear to our words, O Lord; give attention to the sound of our cries.

All: As we come into your presence, hear our voice.

One: You are not one who abides wickedness; the boastful cannot stand before your eyes.

All: But we, through the abundance of your steadfast love, have entered your house.

One: Lead us, O Lord, in your righteousness; make your ways straight before us.

All: Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let us ever sing for joy. Spread your gracious wings over us, so that those who love your name may exult in you!

***OPENING HYMN #372** *“O for A World”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

God of all goodness, we do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We prefer to focus on the good and ignore the bad. But before you, O God, we must face it.

Forgive all the ways we have let evil and selfishness take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us from all that is unclean, unworthy, and unhealthy, and help us to live lives that are worthy of the call we have been given. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORIA #582**

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)*

Sheb Swett

O Lord, as your Word is read and proclaimed, we humbly ask you to open our ears and cleanse our minds of all that would prevent us from hearing you, trusting you, and following you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 1

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. Claunch

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 15: 1-3, 10-20

SERMON

“The Dish on Defilement”

Rev. Bynum

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #686 (verse 2))

*God of the past, our times are in thy hand; with us abide.
Lead us by faith, to hope's true promised land; be thou our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

PRAYERS 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 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 offered electronically by scanning the QR code to the right or through Realm at

<https://onrealm.org/LarchmontAvenueChurch/-/form/give/now>.

Thank you for your support!

Rev. Claunch



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OFFERTORY

"Though I May Speak"

Arr. Dale Wood

***DOXOLOGY #607**

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Claunch

***CLOSING HYMN #729**

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Bynum

POSTLUDE

"O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Arr. David Cherwien

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

**Please stand if you are able*

Announcements & Happenings

PRAYERS

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

FLOWERS

Scan this QR code to sponsor sanctuary flowers for an upcoming Sunday.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Little ones are welcome in worship, but a nursery for infants & toddlers is also available in Room 114. Ask an usher for directions.
- Our Sunday School program has ended for the year and will kick off again on Sept. 13th. We have activity bags available in the back of the sanctuary.

FELLOWSHIP

- Please join us in Russell Hall for Coffee Hour following the service. Try your best to follow the "Ten Foot Rule" and warmly greet new people who are not known to you!
- We are looking for volunteers to provide light, simple snacks for Coffee Hour. Healthy options are always welcome! If you can help, please contact the Deacons.

MUSIC

Chancel Choir – Rehearsals resume in September -- Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. No auditions needed; all are welcome (HS to adults).

Contact: dkostner@lacny.org

THIS WEEK AT LAC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)
11:00 am Coffee Hour (Lindsley)

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

9:00 am Compassion Camp
7:00 pm Trustees' Meeting (Library)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

9:00 am Compassion Camp

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00 am Compassion Camp
11:00 Staff Meeting (Lindsley)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 am Compassion Camp
7:15 pm AA (Carhart)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

4:00 pm Midnight Run

CONNECT WITH US

Visit: 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)



Update your Realm, today. Use the pew card & drop into the offering or at the back of the church or scan the QR code. Problems? contact broodal@lacny.org.

As an Earth Care Congregation, we ask you to please recycle your bulletin. Thank you!



O for a World

372

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,
where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON

CM

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.