

Larchmont Avenue Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

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



PRELUDE

“Veni, Emmanuel”
Larchmont Symphonia

Arr. John Trotta

“The setting of this hymn reflects the tune’s origins as a lively Renaissance dance.”

INTROIT

“Comfort, O Lord”

George Thalben-Ball

Comfort, O Lord, the soul of thy servant: for unto thee do I lift up my soul.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Bowerman Family

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

All: A choir sings in the silence, “Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

One: Every valley shall be filled, and every heart shall be made whole,

All: for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

One: As we light our second Advent candle, we pray for the holy peace of God.

All: Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace.

***THE PEACE**

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

***OPENING HYMN #87**

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

Righteous God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. You seek to purify us in love, but we prefer our own ways. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life.

Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that leads us to the Way you have shown us in Jesus Christ...*(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)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Adriana Forney

Lord, as we open your Word this morning, help us to hear both the challenge and the hope of your calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:68-79

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens Rev. Bynum

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1- 4

SERMON

“The Torment of Transformation”

Rev. Bynum

CHORAL ANTHEM “God Bless Us, Everyone”

Alan Silvestri

*Come together, one and all, in the Christmas spirit.
Gifts abound here, great and small; joyously we feel it.
Blessings sent us from above guide us on our way.
We raise our voice as we rejoice, bow our head and pray.
A miracle has just begun! God bless us, everyone!*

*To the voices no one hears, we have come to find you
With your laughter and your tears, goodness, hope, and virtue.
Father, mother, daughter, son; each a treasure be.
One candle's light dispels the night; now our eyes can see.
Burning brighter than the sun, God bless us, everyone!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Claunch

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



OFFERTORY

“El Noi de la Mare”
Larchmont Symphonia

Arr. Mark Hellem

***DOXOLOGY (#105)**

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***CLOSING HYMN #93** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Bynum

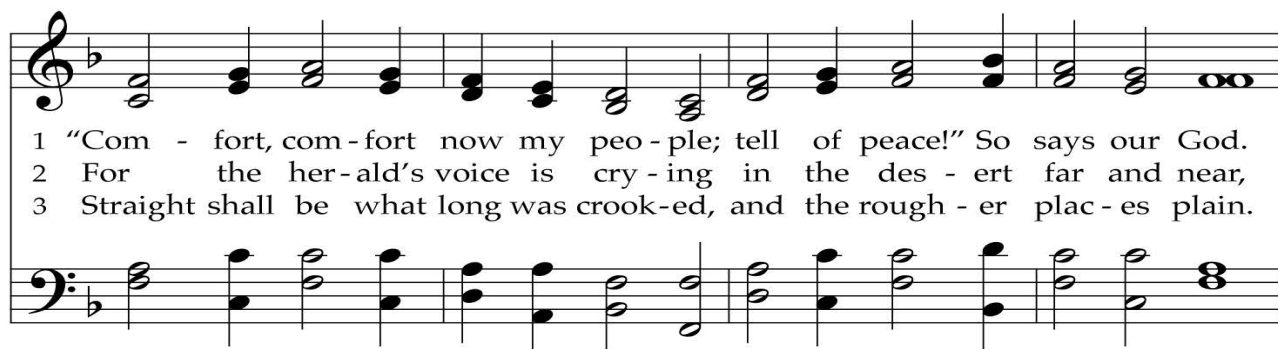
***POSTLUDE** “En BelénTocan a Fuego” Arr. Mark Hellem
Larchmont Symphonia

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

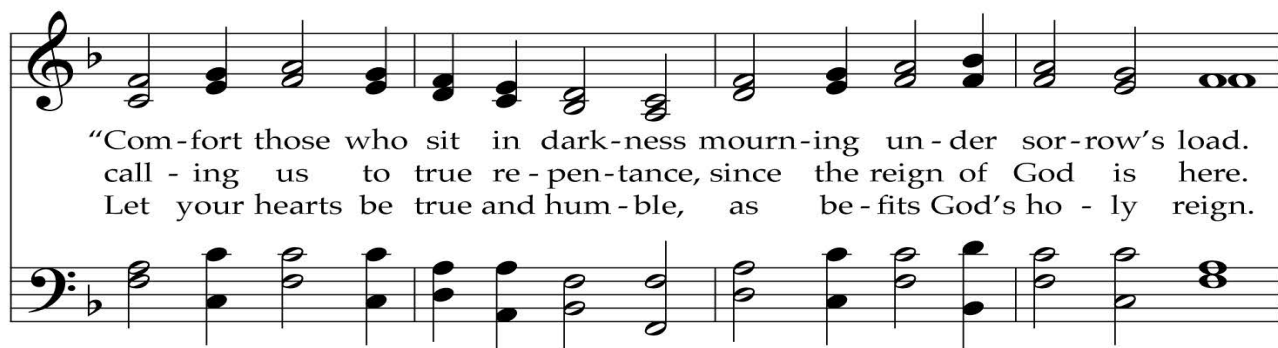
** Please stand if you are able*

Congregational Meeting today – At the end of today’s service, there will be a special called meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, trustees, and members of the nominating committee.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



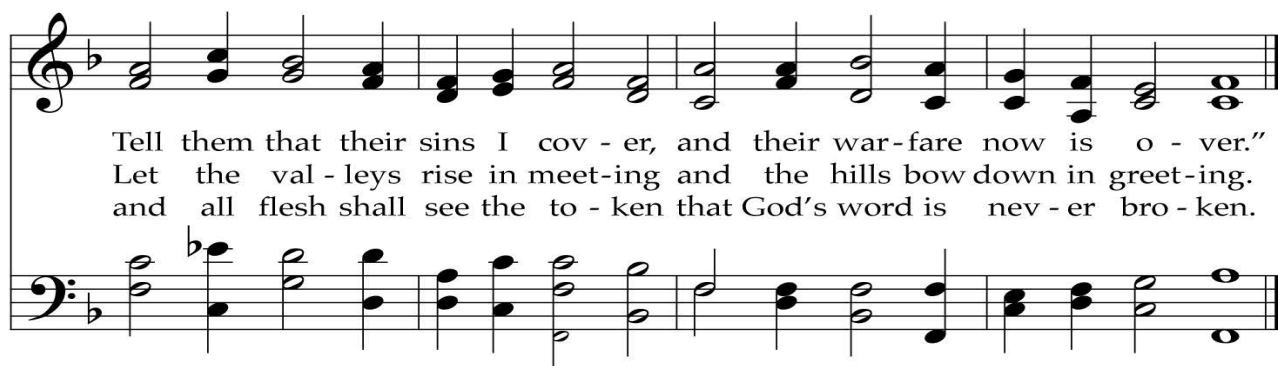
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.