



“Baptism of Jesus,” Lorenzo Scott (1987)

Larchmont Avenue Church

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

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 12, 2025

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



PRELUDE

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Arr. Gary Lanier

Alex Pak, violin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Anna Grace Claunch

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Mindful of the many needs around us, we turn to God for help and healing, saying:

All: Be gracious to us, O God, we pray.

One: Mindful of the suffering of people around the world, we turn to God, saying:

All: Be gracious to us, O God, we pray.

One: Mindful of our own need to be cleansed and reborn, we turn to God, saying:

All: Be gracious to us, O God, we pray.

One: Gracious God, turn our mourning into dancing and change our sorrow into joy,

All: so that we may give you thanks and praise forever; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #375 “Shall We Gather at the River”**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *John “Jack” Miller Thompson,*

son of John Thompson and Jean Colby

Noah Wolfgang Thompson

son of Gordon Thompson and Astrid Thompson Oviedo

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #486 “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” (v 1)

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

***THE PEACE**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Rev. Claunch

In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us.

Forgive us for refusing your grace and rejecting your name. We have followed our own paths, and they have led us far from you.

Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you, for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit.

Wash us with your love again, that with clean hearts we may follow in the way of Christ...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORIA (#581)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Claire Rosenthal

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your

Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11:1-10

VOLUNTARY

“When I Am Baptized”

Arr. Marshall McDonald

Alex Pak, violin

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. Claunch

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Rev. Bynum

SERMON

“Why Did Jesus Need to be Baptized?”

Rev. Bynum

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #288

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Bynum

THE GREAT AMEN (*congregation singing*)

*Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Claunch

*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

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks”

Arr. Timothy Shaw

Alex Pak, violin

***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**

***CLOSING HYMN #463** “How Firm a Foundation” (*verses, 1, 2 and 5*)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Bynum

POSTLUDE

“How Firm a Foundation”

Arr. Dale Wood

Notice of Congregational Meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** of the Larchmont Avenue Church, as well as the Larchmont Avenue Church Corporation, has been called for **Sunday, January 19, 2025**. The agenda for the meeting will include, among other things, receipt of the 2024 Annual Report and the 2025 budget, as well as reviewing the updated pastoral terms of call.

*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*

THIS WEEK’S MUSICAL GUEST

Alex is a 19-year-old violinist studying at Wesleyan University, where she is currently the Concertmaster of their orchestra. She began her studies at 7 years old and continued at Manhattan School of Music's Precollege division before entering Wesleyan. She and her violist sister, Jordan, are regular guests at LAC.

Announcements & Happenings

PRAYERS

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

FLOWERS

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers, please contact the office at broodal@lacny.org.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Join the Women's Bible Study! Email broodal@lacny.org.
- Men's Bible Study. Contact Arthur Washington, ajwash@optonline.net.
- Sunday School starts back today! Preschool- 1st meets in Lindsley/2nd -5th grade in Carhart Room

FELLOWSHIP

- Coffee and refreshments are served by our deacons in Russell Hall each Sunday at the conclusion of worship.
- Interested in membership at LAC? Reach out to Rev. Bynum at pbynum@lacny.org.
- Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 19th
- Sunday Jan. 26th is Ordination/Installation Sunday
- Mission Trip Fundraiser at Coffee Hour on 1/26

MUSIC

Looking for ways to get involved? Joining the choir is a great way to make a joyful noise (and some great friends as well). Call the church office or email dkostner@lacny.org for more details.

SERVICE

- LAC Food Connection. Contact: lacoffice@lacny.org to volunteer.
- Midnight Run-Saturday 1/25 at 4pm in Russell Hall

THIS WEEK AT LAC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)
10:20 am Sunday School
11:15 am Confirmation Class (Carhart)
11:15 am Coffee Hour (Russell Hall)

TUESDAY JANUARY 14

6:00 pm Mission Trip Meeting (Russell Hall)
6:45 pm Al Anon (Library)
7:00 pm Finance Comm. Meeting (Lindsley)
7:00 pm AA (Carhart)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

11:00 am Staff Meeting (Lindsley)
5:00 pm Youth Group (Youth Center)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (Russell Hall)
7:15 pm AA (Carhart)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

4:30 pm Westchester Children's Chorus (Russell Hall, Carhart, Chapel)
7:00 pm AA (Carhart)

STEWARDSHIP



Scan the QR code to make a pledge to the Stewardship 2025 Campaign.



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

375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.