



The Vision of Larchmont Church is to be a vibrant, engaging, and inclusive church that follows Jesus Christ.

December 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

†Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Allegro Spiritoso

Greg Underwood

Larchmont Ringers

Announcements and Greetings

†Passing the Peace

†Bringing in the Light of Christ

†Processional Hymn ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** (vv. 1, 2, 3)

No. 234

†Introit

He Came Down

No. 2085 (TFWS)

He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy;

He came down that we may have joy, Hallelujah forevermore.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle of Joy

Monica Levow and family

Leader:

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

Even in the midst of challenges, we rejoice in the good news of Christ's coming.

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11)

As we light this candle, we celebrate the joy that Christ brings into our lives and into the world.

People:

May this flame remind us to live with hearts full of gratitude and to share the joy of the Lord with all the world.

Leader:

Let us pray: God of joy, fill us with a deep and abiding joy that overflows. Help us to be witnesses of Your joy in every season to all people.

People:

God of peace, quiet our hearts and help us to live as peace-filled people. Amen.

Leader:

We light the first candle for hope, the second for peace, and the third for joy.

(Light two purple, then the pink candle) Come, Lord Jesus, our hope, peace, and joy.

ALL:

Fill the hearts and the world with gladness.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Children's Message

Helen Sommer

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

Worship Leader

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem

I Heard the Bells

arr. Ralph Ingraham

Chancel Choir and Larchmont Ringers

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet, their words repeat of, "Peace on earth, good will to men!"*

*And thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom
had rolled along th'unbroken song of "Peace on earth, good will to men!"*

*Then in despair I bowed my head, "There is no peace on earth" I said,
"for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, "God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail and right prevail with peace on earth, good will to men!"*

With peace on earth, good will to men!

Breakthrough Prayer

**God, please break through the barriers we set up, and show us how to become the vibrant,
engaging, inclusive church community you call us to be. Amen.**

Sermon

"Joy"

Rev. Fran Cooper

†Hymn

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

No. 198

Celebrating Our Offerings

THIS WEEK AT LARCHMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Use this QR code to give online using your phone. →



Online Giving

Sunday, December 14, 2025	
8:15 a.m.	Heavenly Grounds
8:30 a.m.	Nursery
8:35 a.m.	Worship Service
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Paint and Prayer
1:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts Holiday Party
Monday, December 15, 2025	
6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study at the Wetzel's
7:00 p.m.	Larchmont Edgewater Civic League Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 2025	
10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2025	
10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
6:00 p.m.	Larchmont Ringers
6:00 p.m.	835LIVE Band Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Prayer Group
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 18, 2025	
2:00 p.m.	Congregational Care Social
Saturday, December 20, 2025	
11:00 a.m.	LAUNCH Peace on Earth Day (Mason Memorial)
Sunday, December 21, 2025	
Lessons and Carols Service	
9:15 a.m.	Heavenly Grounds
9:30 a.m.	Nursery
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Beacon Youth Noon Crew Christmas Party
4:00 p.m.	Longest Night Service: Blue Christmas
5:00 p.m.	Beacon Youth Middle School Crew

LARCHMONT UMC NOTICES!
December 14, 2025

WANTED: Children for our Annual Christmas Eve Nativity Play

Families, our annual Nativity play will be held Christmas Eve at 5pm. We are in need of children, ages 2 to grade 5 to participate. We will be having Nativity rehearsals on Dec 14th and Dec 21st immediately following the 10:30 service. Snacks will be provided. Character parts will be assigned the first rehearsal. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the first rehearsal! To sign up your child, please use this link <https://larchmont.breezechms.com/form/830e5869> or QR code. (Parents, please submit one form per child).



Nativity Play

Longest Night Service – Sun, Dec 21, 4pm

A service of remembrance often referred to as “Blue Christmas Service” or “Longest Night,” as December 21 is the longest day of darkness, will be held in the Church Chapel. The service will be a time of meditation and music as well as a time to light a blue candle in memory of a loved one. All are invited to this special service.



Deadlines Approaching for Year-End Giving!

If you plan to make a tax-advantaged gift of appreciated stocks or bonds to Larchmont Church in time to gain a 2025 tax credit, the deadline for such gifts is closer than you might expect. Your brokerage and ours will both need some time to transfer your gift. And remember, even financial professionals take time off for the holidays. We suggest that you **initiate your gift by December 8th** to ensure completion of the gift transfer by December 31st. We now use a different agent for transfer acceptance. Contact our Financial Secretary (giving@larchmontumc.org) for the form to send to your brokerage, or talk to Treasurer Chas Etheridge who can quickly walk you through the process. Thank you for generously supporting Larchmont Church.



Angel Tree for Ghent Nursing Home

Small Christmas gift bags are being assembled by the Youth for every Ghent Healthcare resident. Delivery will be the week before Christmas if you would like to help. Additionally, we will have an Angel Tree to purchase special gifts for 20 residents of the Ghent Healthcare Center. The tree will be located outside the office after Thanksgiving. Contact Claudia Wade - wadecjl@verizon.net

Paint & Prayer

WHAT: COME FOR A FUN PAINT ACTIVITY
ACCOMPANIED BY A SHORT DEVOTION
HEAVY APPETIZERS PROVIDED

WHEN: 2ND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE IN OCTOBER-
DECEMBER

\$5 FOR SUPPLIES

CONTACT MONICA LEVOW TO SIGN UP
(757) 409-6895

NO ART EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



Paint & Prayer

Come for a fun painting activity accompanied by a short devotion after the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 14th. Heavy appetizers provided. \$5 each session for supplies. Contact Monica Levow at (757) 409-6895 to sign up. No art experience necessary!

Peace on Earth Community Christmas Fair - Saturday, December 20

Larchmont is again helping with this wonderful community outreach in the Huntersville community, sharing food, toys, and general good tidings all about. We have been specifically asked to assist with set-up of tents, tables and chairs at 9am (need about 15 people and takes about an hour). The event itself is held from 11am - 1pm. Please let Pastor Fran know if you can help with set-up and/or the fair.

Peace On Earth

A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

December 20th, 2025
11:00AM - 1:00PM

MASON MEMORIAL CHURCH
744 GOFF STREET, NORFOLK, VA
(NEXT TO HUNTERSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER)

Registration is FREE and on-site. Children's gifts are for ages 0-17. Each child must be present to receive their Christmas toys and gifts. Enjoy a FREE holiday food box with a certificate for a Free Turkey and so much more!

FREE ENTRY
FREE LUNCH
FREE TOYS
FREE TURKEY

MORE INFO!

LAUNCH Food Security is made available with generous support from SentaraCares.

LAUNCHcommunity.org | [@SLAUNCH_Community](https://www.instagram.com/SLAUNCH_Community) | [SLAUNCH.Norfolk](https://www.facebook.com/SLAUNCH.Norfolk)

Offering Prayer (unison)

Dear Heavenly Father, as we build for the future today,
may our gifts shine Your light and show Your way.
Help us to serve as living stones,
our work to be your vibrant home. Amen.

Offertory *Improvisation on 'Adeste Fideles'* Will Pearson

†Doxology *Christ is the World's Light* (v. 4) No. 188

*Give God the glory; God and none other.
Give God the glory; Spirit, Son, and Father.
Give God the glory; God with us, my brother:
Glory to God on high.*

†Closing Hymn *Joy to the World* No. 246

†Benediction

†Benediction Response *Prepare the Royal Highway* (v. 4) Choir

*His is no earthly kingdom. It comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding.*

REFRAIN: *Oh blessed is he that came in God's most holy name.*

†Postlude *In dir it Freude* Johann Sebastian Bach



Advent/Christmas Worship: Brought to the Light

Too often, we reduce the four themes of Advent— hope, peace, joy, and love— to sentimental clichés tied more to the holidays than to the reality of life. But Advent isn't about pretending everything is fine. It's about Light showing up in the midst of darkness. Advent invites us to wrestle honestly with what hope, peace, joy, and love mean during real life— to look beyond surface-level comforts and encounter something deeper and truer in the person of Jesus. Advent reminds us that the Light has come—and that it's for those who know how deeply they need it.

Assisting in Worship

	This Sunday December 14, 2025	Next Sunday December 21, 2025
Worship Leader	Monica Levow	Lessons and Carols
Children's Worship	Helen Sommer	Lessons and Carols
Media Tech	Sara Morris	Claudia Wade
	Les Thorpe	Lucas Seymour
Sound Tech	Jeff Paiste	Bill Huber
Camera Tech	Clarise Hicks	Clarise Hicks
Trustee of the Month	Allison Arbuckle	Allison Arbuckle
Sunday Stewards	Sandra Clark	Jonathan Clark
	Fred Dobbs	Fred Dobbs
Monday Counters	Robert King	Chris Burge
	Watt Jones	Demi Wheeler
Bus Driver	Kami Lannetti	Rob Baxter
Ushers	Monica Levow	Jonathan Clark
	Gary Chiaverotti	Ben Hatcher
	Rob Baxter	Bill Lehew
	Bill Lehew	Kami Lannetti

Larchmont United Methodist Church
1101 Jamestown Crescent
757-489-8168 office/ 757-489-1267 fax

Lead Pastor	Rev. Fran Cooper; pastor@larchmontumc.org
Administrative Assistant	Nate Poplin; office@larchmontumc.org
Pastor of Visitation	Dave Loughery; pov@larchmontumc.org
Music Director	Karla Robinson; music@larchmontumc.org
Organist	Will Pearson; wpearson@odu.edu
Financial Secretary	Rita Turner; giving@larchmontumc.org
Bookkeeper	Amber Pickrell; bookkeeping@larchmontumc.org
Preschool Director	Meg Ditty; lumps@larchmontumc.org
Children's Ministry Director	Cathy Hickman; education@larchmontumc.org
Youth Director	youth@larchmontumc.org
835LIVE Worship Leader	Dai Poole; worshipleader@larchmontumc.org
Digital Communications	Ron Pionk; CommunicationsSpecialistLUMC@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Robert Ragland
