

# LARCHMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve – 8pm

†Please stand as you are able

Prelude	<i>Toccata on ‘Creator alme siderum’</i>	Pietro Yon
Announcements and Greetings		
†Processional Hymn	<i>Once in Royal David’s City</i>	No. 250
v. 1 – Dai Poole, solo; vv. 2-4 choir and congregation		
†Bringing in the Light of Christ	Thomas Shearin, Acolyte	
†Introit	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i> (v. 1)	No. 242
†Lighting the Christ Candle	The Arbuckle family	
Leader:	Tonight, on Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle, celebrating the birth of Jesus – the Light of the World. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)	
	As we light this candle, we rejoice that Jesus Christ has come to dwell among us, bringing light to the darkness, life to those dead in sin, and salvation for all eternity.	
People:	<b>May this flame remind us that Christ’s light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.</b>	
Leader:	Let us pray.	
	Jesus, Light of the World, thank You for stepping into our darkness. May Your light shine brightly through us as we celebrate Your birth and await Your return.	
People:	<b>Amen.</b>	
Leader:	We light the first candle of hope, the second for peace, the third for joy, the fourth for love, and the Christ candle to commemorate His birth.	
	<i>(Light four purple candles and the white candle).</i> Come, Lord Jesus, our Savior.	
People:	<b>Shine in our hearts as a beacon of the hope, peace, joy, and love found in You.</b>	
†Hymn	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	No. 240
Prayer for Illumination		
	<b>O God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very self. Open our eyes to the Light of Christ, which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain, and loss; a world separated from you. Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of your presence. Fill us with that light and carry it out with us into our lives. Amen.</b>	
Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	Jack Arbuckle, Liturgist
Leader:	The Word of the Lord	<b>People: Thanks be to God</b>
†Hymn	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	No. 230
Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:8-20	Ella Arbuckle, Liturgist
Leader:	The Word of the Lord	<b>People: Thanks be to God</b>

Anthem

***This Christmastide (Jessye's Carol)***

Donald Fraser

*Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old.*

*Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.*

*Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently falling snow.*

*Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.*

*From a simple ox's stall came the greatest gift of all.*

*Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.*

*Children sing of peace and joy at the birth of one small boy.*

*Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.*

*Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear.*

*Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.*

*Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old.*

*Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.*

Homily

Pastor Fran Cooper

Invitation to Communion

Prayer for Christmas Eve

†Passing the Peace

Celebrating Our Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

***Star Child***

arr. Ralph Ingraham

Choral Ensemble

(in page 2)

†Christmas Doxology

***What Can I Give Him***

No. 221

*What can I give him, poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;*

*If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;*

*Yet, What I can I give him? Give my heart.*

†Hymn

***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

No. 216

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The God of Love be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Communion Prayers and Sung Responses (to the hymn, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")  
(please join in the verses of this hymn as you are prompted during the communion prayers)

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness; Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Your works with joy surround You, earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You, center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain praising You eternally!*

*Always giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Abba, Christ our Brother, let Your light upon us shine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, moving onward, trav'lers in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

**O Holy Night** (Adolphe Adam) Lisa Hogan, mezzo soprano (in page 2)

**Sheep May Safely Graze** (J. S Bach; arr. by Egon Petri) Marilyn Chen, piano

*Sheep may safely graze and pasture in a watchful Shepherd's sight.*

*Those who rule with wisdom guiding*

*Bring to hearts a peace abiding*

*Bless the land with joy made bright*

*Those who rule with wisdom guiding*

*Bring to hearts a peace abiding*

*Bless the land with joy made bright*

**The Holy Boy** (John Ireland) Will Pearson, organ

†Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5

†Taking the Light into the World

†Sharing the Light of Christ

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

No. 239

†Benediction

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**\*\*Please remember to take your poinsettia home with you following this evening's service\*\***

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## O Holy Night

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine.*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger!  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease,  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his Holy name!  
Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!*

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## Deadline Approaching for Year-End Giving!

If you plan to give a year-end monetary gift to Larchmont Church and take a charitable gift tax deduction in 2025, there are some deadlines coming soon. The IRS requires that gifts sent by mail must be postmarked no later than New Year's Eve, Wednesday, 12/31/25, in order to take the deduction. Gifts delivered personally must be received by Tuesday, 12/30, since our office will be closed New Year's Eve. Thank you for generously supporting the ministry and mission of Larchmont Church, and for serving Jesus our Lord.

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## UPCOMING NEW YEAR'S SERIES: LOVE GOES FIRST

Jesus gave us a Great Commission to reach out to people everywhere (Matt 28:19). This task is daunting in a world where negative thoughts about Christianity are so prevalent, where people believe we are the problem, and when so many hate us and all we stand for? If you are tired of just talking about the problems that divide us, this series will help us reach across division and wrestle with how we may find a way forward.

**LOVE  
GOES  
FIRST**



# Sacred Christmas Song Service

Led by Gene Mazurek and Friends

**Sunday, December 28**

**One Service - 10:30 am**

**Larchmont United Methodist**

1101 Jamestown Crescent

Norfolk, VA 23508

[larchmontumc.org](http://larchmontumc.org)

**Your gift to our special Christmas Mission Offering helps share Christ’s love both near and far.**

During this month, we invite you to share in the spirit of giving. Our special Christmas Mission Offering supports our church's mission projects, near and far. Your contribution becomes part of a greater blessing, extending the love of Christ well beyond our walls and into the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for joining us in this tradition of generosity and hope. Offering envelopes will be in the Christmas Eve bulletins and available in the Narthex and Monroe entrances. Please use these envelopes if you can or specify “Christmas Offering” on your check. For online giving, scan this QR CODE and select Missions Giving from the drop-down menu funds.



**Assisting in Worship**

**Media Tech**

**Sound Tech**

**Camera Tech**

**Ushers**

**Christmas Eve 8pm  
December 24, 2025**

Sara Morris  
Lucas Seymour  
Jeff Paiste  
Clarise Hicks  
Jonathan Clark  
Gary Chiaverotti  
Dave Lannetti  
Kami Lannetti

**Larchmont United Methodist Church  
1101 Jamestown Crescent  
Norfolk, VA 23508  
757-489-8168 office/ 757-489-1267 fax**

Lead Pastor  
Administrative Assistant  
Pastor of Visitation  
Music Director  
Organist  
Financial Secretary  
Bookkeeper  
Preschool Director  
Children’s Ministry Director  
Youth Director  
835LIVE Worship Leader  
Digital Communications  
Housekeeper

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Robert Ragland

**LARCHMONT UMC NOTICES!  
December 24, 2025**

The Poinsettias are placed on the altar today to the Glory of God and in memory and in honor of those in our thoughts this Christmas season.



***Star Child***

*Star child earth child, go between of God,  
Love child, Christ Child, Heaven’s lightning rod.  
This year, this year, let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive.*

*Street child, beat child, no place left to go,  
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.  
This year, this year, let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes to everyone, everyone alive.*

*Grown child, old child, memory, full of years,  
Sad child, used child, story told in tears.  
This year, this year, let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive.*

*Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,  
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store.  
This year, this year, let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes to everyone, everyone alive.*

*Hope for peace child, God’s stupendous sign,  
down to earth child, star of stars that shine!  
This year, this year, let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes to everyone; everyone alive!*

*Yes, Christmas comes for everyone, everyone! Everyone alive!*

**Office Hours during the Christmas Holiday**

- **Office Closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **Office Open Monday and Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **Office Closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Helping Hands Needed!**

Many hands make light the work! Please stay after the 10:30 service on Jan. 4th to take down our holiday decorations. Please RSVP to Mary Thorpe at [LMand2@comcast.net](mailto:LMand2@comcast.net) or use the QR code.