

December 3, 2017

*Communion Sunday
First Sunday of Advent*

Led by the Holy Spirit, LaGrave's members seek to worship and serve God in all of life, transforming His world and being transformed to reflect the character of Christ.

Welcome to worship at LaGrave. Because our worship proceeds without announcements, please carefully follow the order of worship printed below. We are glad that you are here. Let us worship God together.

MORNING WORSHIP 8:40 & 11:00 AM

*Please prepare your heart and mind for worship
with a time of prayer and meditation.*

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Albert Travis
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Charles Ore, Johannes Brahms

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung;
of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung. It
came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter when half
spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary
we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love
aright, she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night.*

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1-4

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)

*The Greeting

*The People's Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

We Prepare for Christ's Coming

The Advent Litany:

In the season of advent, our hearts are open and our souls are hungry.

We wait for the coming of the Lord.

In the season of advent, we peer through the darkness toward the light.

Jesus is our light and our hope.

We light this candle for the One who is our Wonderful Counselor. He will teach our minds the mysteries of faith, he will fill our hearts with words of hope, he will lead us away from the darkness towards his everlasting light.

Come quickly, Wonderful Counselor.

(Light candle in silence)

The Prayer of Confession:

Loving Father, we confess that our lives do not always reflect your likeness. We desire the spotlight and crave power instead of humility. We would rather be served than serve others. Forgive us, Lord, and help us become more and more like Jesus. In his name we pray, amen.

Prayer concluded by singing:

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts: 480

“Wait for the Lord”

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Isaiah 9:2,6 (pg. 1073)

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 59:1,3

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Declaration of Faith for Table Fellowship (8:40)

Tyler DeBoer

The Children's Blessing:

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?

Congregation: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

(Children, 4-2nd grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Anthem:

“To Us a Child of Hope Is Born” (8:40) Michael Praetorius
*To us a Child of Hope is born, to us a Son is given, and on
his shoulder ever rests all pow'r in earth and heaven.*

*His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counselor, the God by all adored.*

*Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art and Holy Spirit one.*

“The Ground” (11:00)

Ola Gjeilo

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

(Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.)

Osanna in excelsis.

(Hosanna in the highest.)

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

(Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.)

Benedictus qui venit. Osanna in excelsis.

(Blessed is he that comes. Hosanna in the highest.)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.

(Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.)

Dona nobis pacem.

(Grant us peace.)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offertory:

“Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” Egil Hovland, Gerald Near

The Offering

Today's offering is for Camp Tall Turf and the LaGrave General Fund.

*Please use an envelope from the pew to designate your gift. All
undesignated monies will go to the General Fund.*

(Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

***The Doxology:**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

God Speaks to Us in His Word

The Scripture: Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 26:26-29 (pg. 1073, 1547)

The Sermon: **“TO US A CHILD IS BORN:
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

*The Communion Hymn: Lift Up Your hearts 96:1,3

“What Feast of Love”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

As we receive the elements, please meditate while the organist plays.

The Thank-offering: *As we give for the cause of Benevolence, we
will sing the closing hymn.*

The Closing Hymn: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling/
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**
- 2. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**
- 3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee with thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

God Sends Us into His World

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*” Andrew Carter

Rev. Mike Hoogeboom – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Vocal Quartet, Merle Mustert – director (8:40)

Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano; Jess Hollenbach – alto

Jim Elzinga – tenor; Peter Redder – bass

Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director (11:00)

John & Joanne VanderLugt – candle lighter (8:40)

Ray & Marcia Pater – candle lighter (11:00)

Ken and Mary Afman – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Jenny Talsma and Sharlene Jouwstra – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (11:00): Through his many anthems, Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978) has created his own unique and distinct choral sound. Made up of a compilation of

various Latin texts, *The Ground* is based on a chorale from his larger work titled *Sunrise Mass* for choir and string orchestra. Gjeilo later rewrote the movement for piano and choir with optional string orchestra. He writes, “the choir functions almost like a string orchestra, as a bed of warm and evocative sound.” The anthem prominently features the piano which plays a beautiful array of rocking eighth-notes evoking a sense of peace and serenity.

The flowers that grace the chancel today are given in loving memory of daughter and mother, **Rhonda D. Ingersoll** who went to be with her Lord on December 3, 1984; given by **Bill and Della Landheer, Derek Landheer and children, Madison, Camden and Ellery.**

The December special offering is for Camp Tall Turf. Camp Tall Turf is specifically designed to teach campers about the value of diversity. Campers who attend Tall Turf develop critical cross-cultural skills in a fun, safe and engaging environment. Students who attend come from all walks of life but are united by the shared belief that we are all made in the image of God.

This evening we will enjoy our annual Lessons and Carols service. Calvin College’s choirs will lead us in a joyful celebration of our Lord’s Advent. There will be services at 3:00pm and 6:00pm. Rev. Boven will be the liturgist at 6:00pm.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.