

**December 10, 2017**

*Second 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, noting that we use *two* different red hymnals. The *Worship & Rejoice* hymnal will be indicated by bold, italic type. An asterisk (\*) denotes standing for those who are able. 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: "Three Settings of *Savior of the Nations, Come*"  
Johann Sebastian. Bach

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:  
"The Glory of the Father" Egil Hovland  
*The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; we beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

"My Soul in Stillness Waits" Marty Haugen  
*Refrain: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.*

*O Lord of light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (Refrain)*

Adapted from John 1  
Words & music (Stillness 10.7.11.10.11): Marty Haugen (b. 1950). © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #707908

\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 66  
"With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim"  
*(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)*

\*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

### ***We Humbly Approach God***

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 our Mighty God. He will defeat the powers of evil, he will destroy the hold of sin, he will lift up those who bow down. "He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. And in him the islands will put their hope." (Isaiah 42:4)

**Come quickly, Mighty God. Our world waits for you.**

*(Light candle in silence)*

The Prayer of Confession:

**Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed.**

**You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark! You who sent John to be a voice crying,**

**forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!**

**Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Prayer concluded by singing:*

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 109:1,2,4  
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

### ***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

The Children's Blessing:

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?

**Congregation: The Lord be with you.**

Children: And also with you.

*(Children, 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, may leave for Children's Worship)*

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

"Gabriel's Message" (8:40) Old Basque Noel  
*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame, "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

*For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name;" most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

*Of her Emmanuel the Christ was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

"My Heart Rejoices in the Lord" (11:00) John Horman  
*Refrain: My heart rejoices in the Lord! I find my strength in thee. My heart is filled with joy! A son has been given to me.*

*Enemies I fear no more. Salvation comes to me. Holy is the Lord, my God, the first, the last to be. (Refrain)*

*Pride will not deceive me now. My mouth shall speak no ill, for God alone is the God of Truth, abide I must, I will. (Refrain)*

*My heart rejoices in the Lord! Alleluia!*

Text by John Horman, based on 1 Samuel 1:1-2:3; copyright © 1988 Augsburg Publishing House. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #707908

The Offertory:  
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Paul Manz, 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***

The Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; (pg. 1073)

The Sermon: **"TO US A CHILD IS BORN:  
MIGHTY GOD"**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

## *We Go in His Peace*

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 74:1-3, 6,7  
Savior of the Nations, Come”

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

\*The Amen

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude: “Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”  
Paul Manz, David Cherwien, B. Wayne Bisbee

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Mike Hoogeboom – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir Merle Mustert – director (8:40)

Jennifer Schroder – vocalist (11:00)

Mark & Kris Huizenga – candle lighter (8:40)

Gary & Ana VanderVelde – candle lighter (11:00)

Tom and Laurie Bosma – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Jack Beidler and Marlene Padding – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

**Music at LaGrave (8:40):** Originating from the Basque region, *Gabriel’s Message* is a carol that was collected by Charles Bordes in 1895. Sabine Baring-Gould, who, as a young boy, spent a winter in Basque lands, was a text writer of hymns (*Onward, Christian Soldiers*) and novels. He translated the carol into English and reduced the original six stanzas to four. The text recounts the story of the Annunciation recorded in Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 1:46-55. Each stanza concludes with a refrain to the virgin Mary: “Most highly favored lady, Gloria.”

The flowers on the chancel are placed there in loving memory of **Sandra Anne Duyst** and **Mary Ellen Spring**, precious daughters, sisters, and aunts of **Larry Sr. and Dolores Bos** and **the families of Larry Jr. and Dawn Bos, and Laura and Larry VanPopering**. Thanks be to God for the love and joy they brought to our family for many years.

**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 afternoon** at 4:00pm is our annual children’s Christmas program. The program is called “The Bells of Christmas” and it will involve the participation of our children, the Junior Choir,

and the Bells Gloria. Rev. Jonker will also have a very brief meditation.

**Advent** is the first season in the liturgical year. The word Advent means *coming*. The focus is on the birth of Jesus Christ which is his first coming, but it also includes the anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ, the King. Advent also celebrates the revelation of God in Christ by which all creation will be reconciled to God. The primary color for Advent is purple. Purple is the color of royalty. It symbolizes the royal coming of Jesus Christ, the King. The gold color, only partially seen, represents what is precious and valuable. It symbolizes the joy and celebration of Jesus’ birth. The **parament** on the communion table depicts a sunrise, or the coming of Christ into the world. He comes as our Lord and Savior. **The Advent wreath** tells the Christmas story. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God, his eternity and endless mercy. The green of the wreath symbolizes the hope we have in God, the hope of newness, renewal, and eternal life. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent. The one pink candle symbolizes the joy of the eminent Advent of the Christ. The center candle is white. It’s called the Christ candle. This candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season. The incarnation brings light and reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. He comes into the darkness of our lives and brings newness, life and hope.

Livestreaming worship is available at [lagrave.org](http://lagrave.org).