

**January 7, 2018**

*Epiphany Candlelight Service*

Welcome to worship at LaGrave. Because our worship proceeds without announcements, please carefully follow the order of worship printed below. An asterick (\*) denotes standing for those who are able. We are glad that you are here. Let us worship God together.

**EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM**

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

The Prelude: “Caravan of the Three Kings” Richard Purvis  
“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” Wayne Wold, James Biery

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Light Everlasting” Olaf C. Christiansen  
*O Light everlasting, O Love never failing, illumine our darkness, and draw us to thee. May we from thy Spirit receive inspiration, O Light everlasting. Make known to all nations thy peace and salvation, and help us, O Father, thy temple to be. That brethren together thy wisdom may see, make known to all nations thy salvation!*

\*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 374  
“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”  
*(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)*

\*The Greeting

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-3 (pg. 1157)

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 91:1,4  
“God Reigns! Earth Rejoices”

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 1501)

The Hymn Concertato: “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” arr. Larry Visser

**1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid. Star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

All Men:

**2. Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall; angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**

All Women:

**3. Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine; gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

Choir:

**4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure; richer by far is the heart’s adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

All:

**5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid. Star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

The Epiphany Litany:

Pastor: Let us praise God for the manifestation of the Christ in his mission on earth. Let us praise God for the Magi from the east, who were sent to Bethlehem to teach us to honor him and to offer our gifts.

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Pastor: Let us praise God for the multitudes around the world who are following the light of Christ, and who are glorifying his name in their own customs, cultures and languages.

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Pastor: Let us praise God for the manifestation of Christ in our own time when the thirsty are given something to drink and the hungry are fed.

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Pastor: Let us pray for Christ’s continuing epiphany among all who long for his presence. For your manifestation among all who long for truth and are educated and wise in this world, for those who conduct research and those who teach, for those who study the stars and those who give counsel to kings and rulers,

**People: we seek your grace, O wisdom of God.**

Pastor: For your epiphany among all who are open to your presence in the water and the wine, and especially among those who have seen your star but have not yet heard your name,

**People: we seek your grace, O Savior of the nations.**

Pastor: For your epiphany among all who are suffering for the cause of righteousness, for all who are in prison, for those who are oppressed, and for those who are hungry, thirsty, and homeless,

**People: we seek your grace, O Son of God.**

Pastor: For your manifestation of your glory in the course of our daily lives, in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, and our facilities for play and entertainment,

**People: we seek your grace, O Lamb of God. In your name, Amen.**

The Anthem: “The Three Kings” Peter Cornelius

*Three kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star; and this the quest of the travelers three, where the newborn King of the Jews may be. Full royal gifts they bear for the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way, and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary’s child in her lap they see; their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*Thou Child of man, lo, to Bethlehem, the Kings are traveling, travel with them! The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place. Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King; offer thy heart!*

*How brightly shines the Morning Star, with grace and truth from heav’n afar. Our Jesse tree now bloweth of Jacob’s stem and David’s line, for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine, my soul with love o’erfloweth. Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o’erflowing.*

The Offertory: “Good People All, This Christmas Time”

Howard Helvey

There were three wisemen from afar directed by a glorious star. And on they wandered night and day until they came where Jesus lay. And when they came unto that place where our beloved Messiah lay, they humbly cast them at his feet with gifts of gold and incense sweet.

The Offering:

*Today’s offering is for Inner City Christian Federation 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 Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture: John 1:1-10 (pg. 1646)

The Sermon: **“THE TRUE LIGHT THAT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

\*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 730:1,2  
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

The Lighting Ceremony:

As a symbol of our commitment to follow the Light of the world, we will light individual candles with the light spread from the Christ Candle. Please tip your candle toward the lighted candle that is offered to you. As we hold up our lights we will rise and sing the following verses of *Beautiful Savior*:

\*Verse 1 all in harmony

\*Verse 2 all a cappella in harmony

\*Verse 4 all a cappella in harmony

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flowers of bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er;  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er;  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

\*The Benediction

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

\*The Choral Response

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” Wayne Wold

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister  
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist  
Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director  
Jason Coffey – vocalist  
Maddy, Eli, Ella, Grace Walcott – acolytes

Our guest musician this evening is **Jason Coffey** who sings regionally with Opera Grand Rapids and the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and is also artist in residence at Park Congregational Church.

**The January special offering** is for Inner City Christian Federation which provides housing opportunities and services that encourage family responsibility and independence, thereby helping to build stable communities. ICCF assists more than 2,200 low-to-moderate income families each year and continues to address the issues of affordable housing in Grand Rapids.

