

December 2, 2018

*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, noting that we use *two* 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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Savior of the Nations, Come”
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

J. S. Bach
Raymond H. Haan

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Comfort, Comfort”

John Ferguson

*“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.*

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 70

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(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

Litany of Preparation:

In the season of Advent, our hearts are longing for Jesus.

We wait for the coming of the Lord.

In the season of advent, we stand in the darkness but we look for the light.

Jesus is our light and our hope.

We light this candle against our disappointments.

Sometimes our lives don’t turn out the way we hoped. Jesus comes for our disappointments. He says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! For I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Come quickly Lord Jesus. Our longing hearts wait for you.

(Lighting of Advent Candle)

The Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we confess that there are times when the burdens we carry and the disappointments that come our way almost seem too much to bear. Help us to let go of disappointments of the past and move on in your strength – not regretting the past, but rather learning from it. Give us your help and strength, for we know in our hearts that you alone are all we need and we rest in this fact. Amen.

concluded with:

Lift Up Your Hearts 56:1-2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Isaiah 40:29-31

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,6

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Children’s Message

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

The Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Notes are also prayer request cards that can be dropped into the box at the Welcome Center.

The Anthem: (8:40) “O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to

Zion” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain! O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength! Lift it up, be not afraid! Say unto the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 40:9

(11:00) “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Paul Bouman

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth’s redemption that sets your people free! Alleluia, rejoice! Alleluia!

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15 (pg. 24)

The Sermon: **“AWAITING THE MANGER: SARAH”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 614:1,3

“Come, You Disconsolate”

We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

The Offering and Thank-Offering

Today’s offering is for the LaGrave General Fund, the Benevolence Fund, and Camp Tall Turf. Please use an envelope from the pew to designate your gift. All undesignated monies will go to the General Fund.

As we give for these causes, we will sing the closing hymn and stand when signaled.

(Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

We Respond with Praise

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.**

*The Benediction

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

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

Robert A. Hobby

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Andrew Plaisier – cellist

Jessica Klooster – vocalist (8:40)

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

Julia and Elsie Fletcher – candle lighters (8:40)

Josh and Micah Manion – candle lighters (11:00)

Ella and Grace Walcott – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Joanne Arnoys and Lynn Setsma – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Jessica Klooster is a graduate of Calvin College where she sang in the Capella. She remains active as a soloist and is a member of First Reformed Church in Holland. **Andrew Plaisier**, a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan, is originally from Hudsonville and is currently filling a position as cellist with the Grand Rapids Symphony. While attending Calvin, Andrew was a frequent visitor at LaGrave. We welcome these two guest musicians to worship.

Music at LaGrave (11:00): Written in the year 1700 and translated to English in 1854, the original text of the Advent hymn *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* was penned by German music director and cantor, Laurentius Laurenti. The text is based on

the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matt. 25:1-13). Stanzas 1-2 focus on the expected coming of the Bridegroom; stanza 3 is a vision of the saints now in heaven, and stanza 4 is a prayer for Christ's return to set his people free. Paul Bouman's energetic choral anthem based on this hymn is punctuated by periodic, short trumpet fanfare calls in the organ accompaniment.

The flowers that grace the chancel this morning are in remembrance of daughter and mother, **Rhonda D. Ingersoll** who went to be with the Lord on Dec. 3, 1984. Given by **Bill & Della Landheer, Derek & Alisha Landheer**, and grandchildren **Madison, Ellery, Cam and Shelby**.

The December special offering is for Camp Tall Turf. Camp Tall Turf reaches youth and families through camp experiences. CTT instills the biblical message of reconciliation to campers through sessions that are specifically designed to teach children about the value of diversity by creating cross cultural experiences and relationships.

This afternoon and evening at 3 and 6 pm we will enjoy our annual Lessons and Carols services. Calvin College's choirs will lead us in a joyful celebration of our Lord's Advent. The theme of this year's services is "Reconciling All Things."