

December 16, 2018

Third 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:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Flor Peeters
Hal Hopson

The Chiming of the Hour

The Handbell Introit:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (8:40)
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 Introit: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” (11:00)

Richard Webster

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 478

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”
(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 sins. We know the places where we are broken. We know the things we've done and the things we've left undone. Jesus comes to take away our sin. Paul says, “Jesus Christ came to the world to save sinners, of whom I am the very worst.” (1 Timothy 1:15)

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Our longing hearts wait for you. *(Lighting of Advent Candle)*

The Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we were made to love you, to love our neighbor, and to care for your garden. But our sin breaks our fellowship and drives us into the darkness of shame. We confess our hidden sins. Mend our broken hearts. Restore our broken fellowship. Shine the light of your grace on us, your children, and drive away our shame. Clothe us with the righteousness of Jesus. In his name we pray. Amen. *concluded with:*

Lift Up Your Hearts 56:1-2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Hebrews 12:1-3

*The Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 160:1,2,4***

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

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 Handbell Anthem: “Savior of the Nations, Come” (8:40)

arr. Kathleen Wissinger

The Anthem: “Zion, at Thy Shining Gates” (11:00)arr. George Guest

Zion, at thy shining gates, lo, the King of Glory waits, Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, strew thy palms before his feet. Christ, for thee their triple light, faith and hope and love unite; this the beacon we display to proclaim thine advent day. Come and give us peace within, loose us from the bands of sin, take away the galling weight laid on us by Satan's hate. Give us grace thy yoke to wear, give us strength thy cross to bear, Make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord. So, when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men. We with all thy saints shall sing alleluias to our King.

The Offertory:

“Savior of the Nations, Come” B. Wayne Bisbee, Charles Ore

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: Genesis 3: 1-19 (pg. 5)

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

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 60

“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

*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

Rev. Ruth Boven – minister

Rev. Mike Hoogetboom – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Bells Jubilate, Kurt Stroh – director (8:40)

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

Sherlynn and Naomi James – Candle Lighter (8:40)

Josh and Dylan Cole – Candle Lighter (11:00)

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

Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40): Handbell teacher, composer, director, and ringer Kathleen Wissinger has written over 80 handbell pieces and teaches classes both in the US and abroad. Her arrangement of the ancient hymn *Savior of the Nations, Come* (based on a 12th or 13th century manuscript) begins sparsely with the melody played by the handchimes under repeated long notes played by the upper handbells. Successive verses become more active with eighth-note rhythms and key changes. Throughout the piece, the individual phrases of the hymn are lengthened with a rhythmic figure of “short-long.” The final verse, broad and majestic, leads to a quieter ending at which the major key is heard in the final chord.

The flowers on the chancel are given by **Marianne Stehouwer** in loving memory of her husband, **Charlie**. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

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 evening is our annual Christmas Carol service featuring the LaGrave Orchestra.

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. It also includes the anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ, the King. Advent celebrates the revelation of God in Christ by which all creation will be reconciled to God. The primary color for Advent is purple, 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 symbolizing the coming of Christ, God’s son, 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. It is 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 coming of the Christ. The white center candle is the Christ candle. It 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.