

December 9, 2018

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* 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:

“Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” Alfred Fedak
“Silent Night, Holy Night” Franz Gruber
“The First Noel” trad. English carol, harm. John Stainer
“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” trad. English carol

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “The Glory of the Father” (8:40) Egil Hovland
The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

“My Soul in Stillness Waits” (11:00) 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.

Come, let us bow before the God who made us, let every heart be opened to the Lord, for we are all the people of his hand.
(Refrain)

*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

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 the troubles of this world.

Sometimes, the anger and division of the world overwhelms us. Jesus comes to heal our division. Isaiah says, “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:6,9)

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

The Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we wait in hope for the coming Christ. We confess that, in our waiting, we become impatient. Our eyes turn inward and we do not see or attend to the needs and longings of others. We've become content with the barriers that keep us away from those whom Jesus calls our neighbors. Forgive us, Lord. Smooth out the rough edges of our pettiness, selfishness and apathy. Help us reach out with courage to all people and to find our hope and strength in your strong love. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen. concluded with:

Lift Up Your Hearts 56:1-2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

*The Hymn: Worship & Rejoice 539

“O Day of Peace”

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:

“Comfort, Comfort” (8:40) arr. 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!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near. Calling us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

“The Yearning” (11:00) Craig Courtney
There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One, the First-born of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited his own, and by his death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation. Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of his appearing. There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts, the yearning. Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

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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: Jeremiah 23:1-6 (pg. 1212)

The Sermon: **“AWAITING THE MANGER:
JEREMIAH WAITS FOR A GOOD SHEPHERD”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: *Worship & Rejoice 534*
“When the King Shall Come Again”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Richard Webster, Malcolm Archer

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Ellie Hoeksema – harpist

Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director (8:40)

Jennifer Schroder – vocalist (11:00)

Paul and Gabriel Stuit – candle lighters (8:40)

Peter and Mia Ackerman– candle lighters (11:00)

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

Jean and Melanie Scott – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (11:00): Hope College graduate Susan Bentall Boersma has written a poignant text addressing a yearning to see God, the One who came to earth to “visit his own,” and the hope of Emmanuel’s return in the second Advent. Contemporary composer Craig Courtney’s gift of writing lyrical melodies and his extensive piano background are evident in his beautiful anthem based on Boersma’s text. Following a dramatic climax near the conclusion, the anthem concludes quietly with an extended single pitch, symbolizing our waiting and yearning for God.

The flowers on the chancel are placed in loving memory of **Sandra Ann Duyst** and **Mary Ellen Spring**, precious daughters, sisters, and aunts of **Larry Sr. & Dolores Bos** and the **families of Larry Jr. & Dawn Bos**, and **Laura & Larry VanPopering**. **Dolores** was called home this year, but thanks be to God for the love and joy she brought into each of our lives as a family, wife, and mother. “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh; blessed be the name of 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 afternoon at 4:00 pm we will have our annual **Children’s Christmas Program**. *There will not be a 6pm service.* At 7:30pm the **King’s Choraliers** will present their Christmas Concert titled “Christ, Our Newborn King.” Our special musical guests will be Hopkins High School Chamber Choir under the direction of Jacob Oaster.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.