

January 6, 2019

Epiphany Sunday

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:

“How Bright Appears the Morningstar”

Charles Ore, Max Drischner, Paul Manz

“This Little Light of Mine”

Wayne Wold

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year”

Greet now the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.

“All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth!” the angels cry. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 101

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

(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 Call to Confession:

Here is the message we have heard from Jesus and announce to you: God is light. There is no darkness in him at all. Suppose we say that we share life with God but still walk in the darkness. Then we are lying. We are not living out the truth.

But suppose we walk in the light, just as he is in the light. Then we share life with one another. And the blood of Jesus, his Son, makes us pure from all sin.

You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Let us live as children of the light.

Merciful Father, hear the prayers of your people.

The Prayer of Confession:

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to Christ so that we may follow his way which brings us to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: John 1:12-14

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts: 374

“O Splendor of God's Glory Bright”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

Installation of Deaconesses (11:00)

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 309:1,3,5 (11:00)

“The Servant Song”

The Children's Message

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

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“This Little Light Of Mine” (8:40)

John W. Work

This little light of mine, I'm goin' to let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm goin' to let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm goin' to let it shine, let it shine.

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” (11:00) Eric H. Thiman
Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night. Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see, till they inward light impart, glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day. Amen.

The Offertory:

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light”

Wayne Wold

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 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: John 1:1-9; 8:12

The Sermon: **“THE I AM'S OF JESUS: THE LIGHT”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 730

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*The Benediction

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

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Fiat Lux” (Let There Be Light)

Théodore Dubois

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Jim Elzinga – vocalist (8:40)

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

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

Payton and Simon Speulstra – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

“Toy stops” such as bird calls, drums, and bells were common in large pipe organs in northern Europe during the 16th-18th century. The Zimbelstern, also found on LaGrave’s organ, is a set of high-pitched bells mounted on a revolving wheel, resulting in a jingling sound. It is often used to depict twinkling stars, thus it is used often at Christmas and Epiphany, specifically in the prelude and on some of the congregational hymns.

The flowers today are in loving memory of **Jack R.**

Brouwer who went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 9, 2014. Remembered with love by his wife, **Ruth, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

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.

Tonight will be our Epiphany Candlelight Service. Rev. Jonker will preach on Matthew 2:1-12, his sermon is entitled: “The Two Kings.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.