

December 1, 2019

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* 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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

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

"Alleluia" William Boyce, arr Stephen DeCesare

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Healey Willan

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Ralph C. Schultz

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (8:40)

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

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"The King of Glory Comes" (11:00)

Refrain: The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory: what shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. (Refrain)

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 56

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

(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:

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 look through the darkness to the everlasting 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.

The Advent Candle is lit.

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

God of Light, we who live in darkness wait for your coming. Help us to prepare the way of the Lord. Forgive our sin and take away our pride. Keep us humble and faithful as we live out your gospel of peace. We pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

(concluded by a time of silence, and followed by singing)

"When God First Brought Us Back"

Once more, O Lord, restore your people; come with your saving help again, as to the brook-beds in the desert you bring the sweet, reviving rain. Let those who sow with tears and sighing sing as they reap and joy proclaim; may those who weep when seed is scattered gather their sheaves and praise your name.

LUYH 55:2

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The Assurance of Forgiveness: based on Zephaniah 3:14-18

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 70 (8:40)

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (11:00)

Claudio Monteverdi

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

(Children, 4's, K – 1st grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: (8:40)

"Where Thou Goest"

Heinrich Schuetz

Whither thou goest there also will I go, and where thou lodgest there also will I lodge, thy land be my land and thy God be my God. O bid me not to leave thee. What may befall us our God alone knoweth, but sharing all that his mercy bestoweth shall be my joy, my delight never ending. Not till life's day is done shall we be parted.

Text adapted from Ruth 1:16.

The Anthem: (11:00)

"Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices"

J. S. Bach

from Cantata 140

Zion hears the watchmen's voices, with gladness all her heart rejoices, she eager wakes to greet the day. See her Lord from heav'n descending with grace and truth and power unending, her daystar dawns with brightest ray. O come, thou blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Hosanna! We follow there thy feast to share, and taste the joys beyond compare.

The Offertory:

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" (8:40)

Michele Robeson-Howard

"The King Shall Come" (11:00)

arr. Nancy Norman

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: Ruth 1 (pg. 408)

The Sermon: **“HUNGRY IN THE HOUSE OF BREAD:
EMPTINESS”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,2,4,6

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Benediction

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

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*” (*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel*)

Andrew Carter

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Sara Good, Melissa Reiffer – violinists

Patricia Stephenson – violist

Christina Leigh Stephenson – cellist

Jess Hollenbach – vocalist (8:40)

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

Bells Jubilate, Kurt Stroh – director (11:00)

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

Merv Kamper and Marlene Padding – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Norman: the Advent hymn *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* (LUYH 476) and the Ukrainian Bell Carol, also known as *Carol of the Bells*. Both melodies are in the minor mode and themes from both are heard throughout the piece. At times, the melody of the hymn is heard played on the handchimes. While the piece opens with the familiar first four-note phrase of *Carol of the Bells*, it closes with the final phrase, also four notes.

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 a 40-year-old Christian camp offering leadership training and mentoring for inner city and greater Grand Rapids youth.

There is no evening service.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org

Music at LaGrave (11:00): Two different tunes are cleverly interwoven in this morning's handbell piece by Nancy