

December 8, 2019

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* 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.**

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Johann Ludwig Krebs

“Ave, Ave, the Angels Sang” Robert Lau

“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes” Paul Manz,
David Cherwien

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace: so says
our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under
sorrow's load. Cry out to Jerusalem of the peace that waits
for them; tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now
is over.*

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

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

(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 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.

The Lighting of Advent Candle

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

Lord Jesus, you are the source of our life and the goal of our hope. When our efforts to follow you in this world are misguided – by accident or by our own willfulness; when our best intentions go awry and our dreams are dashed; when our eyes overflow and the resentment of our hearts sneaks up on us, we turn to you. Forgive us and receive us, fragile souls as we are. We seek refuge under the shelter of your wings.

(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

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1996 Hope Publishing Company.
Used with permission under One License #707908

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Ephesians 2:4-7 (pg. 1816)

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 478:1,2,4,5

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

The Children's Message

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

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: (8:40)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood. Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way. As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day. That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Alleluia, Lord Most High.” Amen.

The Anthem: (11:00)

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

Everett Titcomb

Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name all other names above! Unto which must every knee bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old, to the maiden mother told, Kneeling in her lowly cell, by the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen sons of earth, for the promise that it gave, “Jesus shall his people save.” Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name of love!

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Ruth 2 (pg. 410)

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

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 74:1,4,5,7

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

(As we receive the bread, the congregation will sing the following hymn; during the passing of the wine, please meditate as the organ plays.)

The Communion Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 96

“What Feast of Love”

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.)

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 Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Festival Processional” (Lo, He Comes
with Clouds Descending)

Robert Wetzler

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Aaron Good – trumpeter

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

Vocal Quartet, Merle Mustert – director (11:00)

Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano, Jess Hollenbach – alto

Jim Elzinga – tenor, Peter Redder – bass

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

Paul and Ingrid Speulstra – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40) : The *Psalter Hymnal Handbook* states of the hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, “The text expresses awe at Christ’s coming and the mystery of our perception of Christ in the body and blood. With images from Isaiah 6 and Rev. 5, it portrays the glory of Christ and his victory over sin. Although it has Eucharistic emphasis, the text pictures the nativity of Christ in a majestic manner and in a much larger context than just his birth in Bethlehem. We are drawn into the awe and mystery with our own ‘alleluias.’” Gustav Holst’s setting combines both this simplicity of Christ’s birth and the majesty of his reign.

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 August 2, 2018. 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 a 40-year-old Christian camp offering leadership training and mentoring for inner city and greater Grand Rapids youth.

This afternoon and evening at 3 and 6 pm we will enjoy our 46th annual Lessons and Carols services. Calvin University’s choirs will lead us in a joyful celebration of our Lord’s Advent. The theme of this year’s service is, “Christus Paradox.”