

November 29, 2020

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 10:00 AM

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

David Schelat, Robert Hebble

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Albert Travis

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 56:1-4

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

In Expectancy We Approach our God

The Call to Confession: John 3:19-21

The Lighting of the Wreath

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing for the full coming of God’s kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Sung Prayer for Advent: Lift Up Your Hearts 480

“Wait for the Lord”

Soloist – first time, Congregation – second time

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier, from Songs and Prayers from Taizé 1991
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The Prayer of Confession:

The Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 1:7

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 730

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

The Pastoral Prayer

The Children’s Message

The Anthem:

“Stir Up Thy Power, O Lord”

James Biery

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us, O Lord, and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Isaiah 1:1-20; 53:4-6

The Sermon: **“MAKING THE CROOKED STRAIGHT:
A SAVIOR WHO UNBENDS OUR SIN”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 60:1,3,4
“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

David Cherwien, B. Wayne Bisbee

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister
Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Renee Vande Wege – vocalist
Scholten Family – acolytes

Music at LaGrave

Stir Up Thy Power, O Lord is a traditional Advent collect (prayer) seeking God, in all his power, to come among us and to cover us and our sin with grace and mercy. The text ends with a Trinitarian doxology. James Biery, Minister of Music at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Presbyterian) in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, is a well-known composer and choral director. His melody set to this text is strong, powerful, and at times fanfare-like, mirroring the boldness in which we seek the Advent King’s coming.

The banners and parament for Advent help us focus on the message from Isaiah: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:6) In Advent we celebrate the

coming of Christ. His glorious, heavenly light breaks forth in the darkness and brings us the hope of a new day.

The November special offering is for World Renew, a CRC sponsored organization providing domestic/international disaster response, community development in 30 countries, and partnering with over 130 churches to address illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, child mortality, HIV/Aids and injustice.