

December 13, 2020

Third 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:

“Pastoral Symphony, from *Messiah*”

G. F. Handel

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

J. S. Bach

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

Marty Haugen

Refrain: En el silencio te aguardo a ti, Señor.

Tú eres mi luz y miamor.

English translation: *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. (Refrain)

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you. Our hope reborn in dying and in rising. (Refrain)

Text: Marty Haugen © 1982, 2005, GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under One License #707908

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 74:1,2,6,7

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach our God

The Call to Confession: Isaiah 9:2

The Lighting of the Advent 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.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Based on Isaiah 9:6-7

The Sung Prayer for Advent: Lift Up Your Hearts 480

“Wait for the Lord” (*Sing twice*)

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
Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.,
Used with permission under One License #707908

The Prayer of Confession:

God, you placed us in the world to be its light. You asked for our hands, that you might use them for your purpose. We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for our mouth to speak out against injustice. We gave you only a whisper. You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty. We closed them, for we did not want to see. You asked for our lives, that you might work through us. We gave a small part that we might not get too involved. Lord, forgive us, renew us, send us out as bright lights into a world filled with darkness. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 40:3-5

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 478:1,3,4

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Ministry Moment: Report on Cuba, Bruce Muller

The Pastoral Prayer

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” arr. Mark Hayes

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!

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.

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.

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

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

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 87:1-4

“Once in Royal David's City”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*” (O Come, O

Come, Emmanuel)

Andrew Carter

Rev. Ruth Boven – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Carlos Lemagne – flutist, vocalist
The Westra Family – Advent Wreath

Carlos Lemagne, originally from Jaguey Grande, Cuba, is a fifth-year student at Calvin University studying business and music. He is a member of the Calvin Capella. We warmly welcome Carlos and thank him for his music ministry in worship this morning.

Music at LaGrave

HYFRYDOL, one of the Church's most beloved hymn tunes, was composed in 1870 by a nineteen-year-old Welshman named Rowland Prichard, a textile worker and amateur musician. Several hymn texts are sung to this well-known melody, including the Advent hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, penned by Charles Wesley. The piano and arranging skills of contemporary composer Mark Hayes are evident in his solo voice setting of this cherished hymn which refers to both Christ's first Advent and his second coming.

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 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 December special offering is for Next Step of West Michigan which offers skill training and employment for the vulnerable population including ex-offenders and those in rehab. The organization engages in light wood working and assembly, general contracting and sub-contracting services to businesses, city entities and property owners.