

*New Year's Eve
Candlelight Communion Service*

**December 31, 2020
6:00 PM**

The Prelude:

“Retrospection”

Harold Darke

“Now the Day Is Over”

Larry Visser

Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh, shadows of the evening
steal across the sky. Jesus, give the weary, calm and sweet repose;
with thy tenderest blessing may our eyelids close.

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

**My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
**indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
**the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
**the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.**

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 331
“To the Hills I Lift My Eyes”

*(Because we are not able to sing yet, please reflect on
the hymn texts.)*

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

The Litany of Remembrance

Tonight we pause and remember the events of the year gone by, including the losses we've endured. We name and remember dear LaGrave members who lived among us in their own unique ways, whose presence we now miss. We give thanks to God for the memories that still bind them to us.

Lord, surround us with your eternal love.

Words of Comfort: Isaiah 103:15-17

Sung Refrain: *Hope in the Lord, unfailing is his love, in him confide.*

We carry other losses in our hearts tonight. We grieve the death of precious family members, or the loss of health or employment. All of us carry loss and pain from the past year, including concern for our suffering world. As we gather up all our sorrow, O God, place into our open hands the gift of your peace.

Hold us, help us, heal us, O God.

The Reading: Psalm 139:11-12

Sung Refrain: *Hope in the Lord, unfailing is his love, in him confide.*

In this service of remembering, we bring our grief, our sadness, our hurts, and our fears, and we entrust them to Christ, the suffering servant who is victorious over death itself.

We remember that the dawn overcomes the darkness.

The Reading: John 1:1,4

Sung Refrain: *Hope in the Lord, unfailing is his love, in him confide.*

We thank you, faithful God, for those you've given us to share in our sorrow, for their compassion and presence with us in times when our hurt went deeper than words could express. We remember that you, Lord, sent your Spirit to sympathize with our weakness and to carry our sorrows.

We thank you for those who held us and pointed us to your holy light.

The Reading: Matthew 5:4,7

Sung Refrain: *Hope in the Lord, unfailing is his love, in him confide.*

Remembering Departed Saints

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 427:1,3,5
“How Firm a Foundation”

The Prayer

The Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4

The Sermon: **“THE HURT. THE HELP. THE HOPE.”**

Celebrating God's Promises

Rejoicing in LaGrave Births

*The Response Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 330:1,4
“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

The Order of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us
the way of everlasting life.**

We praise you that Jesus gave himself to us as the bread of life,

**the living bread from heaven through which we are
given strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow.**

Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

Rev. Ruth Boven – minister
Rev. Peter Jonker – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Chad Boorsma – acolyte

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.

The Prayer of Consecration

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole Church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

The Institution

The Communion

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 770:1,4
“In Christ Alone”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Toccata on *In Christ Alone*” Larry Visser

*(The Thank-offering is for the Benevolence Fund.
Offering plates are located at the Sanctuary exits.)*