

December 12, 2021

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 8:40 AM & 11:00 AM

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Johann Gottfried Walther, Johann Sebastian Bach

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Paul Manz

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Tell Out, My Soul”

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his Word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word! Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and forevermore!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1961; based on the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55
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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 70

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Call to Confession

The Reading: 1 John 4:9-11

This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

The Lighting of the Candle:

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

With the coming of this light there is love,
In Jesus, God's love for the world took on flesh and blood.
For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

The candle is lit.

The Sung Refrain:

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.

LUYH 56:1

The Prayer of Confession:

(prayer begins with silence)

God of birth, God of joy, God of life,
we come to you as a people hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to miracles
that we have missed the world's rebirth.
We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures
and have overlooked the joy you offer us.
We have been so concerned with making a living
that we have missed the life you set before us.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift;
open our mouths and our hands to share it with all
humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:5-7

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 78

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (8:40)

Basque Carol arr. John Leavitt

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; “All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady, Gloria!”

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady, Gloria!”

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said. “My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady, Gloria!”

“In the Stillness of the Night” (11:00)

David von Kampen

In the stillness of the night, we await the break of day. Golden beams foretell the light, when our fears all melt away.

As we wait, our hearts still yearn for that peace of angels' song. Our Messiah will return, mighty with each righted wrong.

Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our hearts with comfort sweet. Rescue us, Immanuel, restoration to complete. Rescue us, Immanuel.

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

The Sermon: “**PREPARING THE WAY WITH LUKE**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 74:1-3,5,7

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen (8:40)

*The Organ Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*”

(O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

Andrew Carter

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir Men, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)

Jennifer Schroder – vocalist (11:00)

The Hollebeek Family – candle lighters (8:40)

The Alcumbrack Family – candle lighters (11:00)

Chad Boorsma and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Rachel Rynbrandt and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave: (8:40)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, also called *Gabriel’s Message*, quotes the Biblical account of the annunciation to the virgin Mary. It originated as a 13th or 14th century Latin folk carol from the Basque region. The carol is divided into stanzas, each ending with the words “Most highly favored lady, Gloria,” paying homage to the mother of Jesus. Contemporary choral arranger John Leavitt’s version of this beloved carol is gentle, yet energetic and lilting, and concludes in jovial delight.

The banners and parament reflect the message from Isaiah 9:6, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” In Advent we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus breaks through the world’s darkness with his glory bringing us the light of salvation.

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 special offering for December is for **Oakdale Neighbors**, a neighborhood development organization providing youth mentoring and advocacy, tax preparation,

financial classes and neighborhood business development assistance.

This evening we will welcome Calvin seminarian **Jodi VanWingerden** as our guest preacher.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live