

## December 12, 2021

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.

### EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

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

The Prelude:

“Offertorio Pastorale”

Anonymous

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Paul Kickstat

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

Gordon Phillips

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

J. Wayne Kerr

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship: Psalm 65:1-4

\*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 492

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

*(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)*

\*The Greeting

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Reading: Luke 1:67-69

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 67

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

\*The Confession:

What does the first petition mean?

**“Hallowed be your name” means: Help us to truly know you, to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth.**

**And it means, Help us to direct all our living—  
what we think, say, and do—  
so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us  
but always honored and praised.**

What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

**“For the kingdom and the power  
and the glory are yours forever” means:  
We have made all these petitions of you  
because, as our all-powerful king,  
you are both willing and able to give us all that is good;  
and because your holy name, and not we ourselves,  
should receive all the praise, forever.**

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 122, 128

\*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 549

“O Praise the Lord, for It Is Good”

The Pastoral Prayer

*concluded by singing our sung prayer of Illumination*

**1. Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you. By your gospel pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.**

**2. Glorious Lord, yourself impart; Light of Light, from God proceeding, open lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit’s leading. Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises.**

LUYH 763:1,3

The Scripture: Psalm 150

The Sermon: **“COLLECTIVE HALLELUJAH”**

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 557:1,3

“O God, Beyond All Praising”

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

\*The Organ Amen

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

“The King Shall Come”

Michael Burkhardt

*Offering plates are located at the Sanctuary exits.  
Thank you for your continued support of our ministries.*

Jodi VanWingerden – seminarian

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Elizabeth West – organist

We welcome **Jodi VanWingerden** to our pulpit tonight. Jodi is a seminary student at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Our liturgist, **Erin Alley**, is on staff here at LaGrave. For the past four years Erin has been our Doorstep minister. She deals with requests for assistance that come from the neighborhood. Erin is a seminary student at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

**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**. **Delores** 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.

Livestreaming worship is available at [lagrave.org/live](http://lagrave.org/live)

For those ready to greet this happy morn',  
*Christ is risen!*  
For those with praise on the tips of their tongues,  
*He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

And for those whose lenten journeys lag,  
*Christ is risen.*  
For those whose tombs resist the dawn,  
*He is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

All the ways to say it  
belong in the people's refrain,  
from the joyous proclamation to the barely mustered  
mumble.

But because the joy is amped on Easter,  
may I say a word to the mumblers?

Don't let the alleluias shame you,  
as if you should get over it,  
should have folded your grave clothes by now  
and showed up, showered and shined.

Don't let the sheer volume of voices  
make you feel like you're the only one who can't sing it yet,  
for some have taken the word in vain,  
a liturgically convenient excuse to  
wriggle out of dark places,  
tight spaces,  
dusting off death before it's done any good work at all.

You are smart to sit with what still is for you,  
what might be for another tomorrow,  
what will likely come again,  
this unmanageable dying and rising,  
dying and rising.

May the church hold both its calendar and your kairos,  
blend lament and alleluia into one song,  
insist that the stories we honor shatter  
the boundaries of a day.

In Christ who is all at once  
the dying one,  
the living one,  
the coming one,  
Alleluia, Amen.