

December 5, 2021

Second 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:

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Michael Burkhardt, Jacobus Kloppers
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Albert Travis, David Schelat
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Lee Dengler

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Prepare the Way” Jaques Berthier
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.
Words: Isaiah 40:3, 52:10 © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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*The Processional Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 176***

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Call to Confession

The Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

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

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

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.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

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 peace,

For Christ is called the “Prince of Peace,”

He is Emmanuel, God with us.

Because Christ is with us, we have peace day by day.

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)

Merciful God...

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace.

We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

the financial burdens we put on ourselves,

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

Though we make ourselves less peaceful at this time

of the year, your peace is always there for us.

When we feel overwhelmed,

when we are filled with worry,

when we become irritable,

remind us that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God,

and draw us closer to you.

Grant us your peace

so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Isaiah 40:1-2

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 478:1,2,4,5

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry” David Cherwien
*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.*

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more; O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

*All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen!*

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

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

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 59

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

(See Bulletin Insert)

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 821

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

David Schelat, Michael Burkhardt

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Mike Hoogeboom – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Della Landheer & Marilou Reiffer – handchimes

Vocal Quartet, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)

Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano, Jess Hollenbach – alto

Jim Elzinga – tenor, Peter Redder – bass

Chancel Choir Women, Dr. James Borst – director (11:00)

Ethan, Landon & Andrew Schimmel – candle lighters (8:40)

Audrey Magee & Grandparents – candle lighters (11:00)

Nolan Walcott and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Maria Uekert and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave:

A hymn of contemplation, mystery, and awe, *Let All Mortal*

Flesh Keep Silence is based on themes of Christ's

incarnation and the sacrament of communion. The text is

from an ancient prayer that was chanted by priests as the

bread and wine were brought to the table. The *Psalter*

Hymnal Handbook states, “Although it has Eucharistic

emphasis, the text pictures the nativity of Christ in a majestic

manner and in a much larger context than just his birth in

Bethlehem. We are drawn into the awe and mystery with our

own ‘alleluias.’” The prelude concludes with a piano and

hand chime arrangement evoking that mystery.

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 that grace the chancel today are in memory of

daughter and mother, **Rhonda D. Ingersoll**, remembered

with love by **Bill, Della, Derek and Alisha Landheer and**

children.

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.

The annual services of **Calvin University Music Department's**

Lessons and Carols will be presented at **3pm and 6pm**. Both

services will also be livestreamed.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live