

November 27 2022

First 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:

“Variations on *Puer Nobis* (On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry)”
Michael Burkhardt

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“While We Are Waiting, Come” (8:40) Don Cason
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

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“O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort” (11:00)

Johann Wolfgang Franck, arr. Carl Stein
O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort; O let me ne'er in sorrow pine, my heart and soul, yea, all my being, O Jesus, trust alone in thee. Thou Prince of Peace, thou Pearl from heaven, true God, true Man, my Morning Star!

Refrain: Come, thou precious Sun most radiant, thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

O Jesus, with thy advent quiet my restless soul and anxious mind. In true humility I welcome thee, Jesus Christ, my joy divine. My thoughts, desires, and all my longings I dedicate, O Christ, to thee. (Refrain)

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 478

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: (Isaiah 35:1-2)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; **like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.**

Those before us in life and faith watched and prayed. And God answered: **God tore open the heavens and came down in Jesus, his Son.** We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God into the world. **Our hearts are ready for joy, Lord. Our hearts are ready for joy.**

The Prayer of Confession:

Lord God, as we begin to prepare our hearts to receive the One whom you are sending, forgive us for all the times we have been in such a hurry, that we missed seeing you, for all the times we have doubted your presence in our lives, and for all the times we have failed to help others find their way to you. Forgive us, in the name of Jesus, the One who is coming. Amen.

The Sung Response: “My Soul in Stillness Waits”



Words and Music: Marty Haugen, based on Psalm 62:5 and "O" Antiphons
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The Assurance of Forgiveness: Isaiah 53:4-6

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 64

“O Shepherd, Hear and Lead Your Flock”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Every Valley” (8:40) John Ness Beck
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

Isaiah 40:4-5

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (11:00)

arr. Craig Courtney

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed – the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

The Offering

The Offertory:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!” Paul Manz, Gerald Near

*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12 (pg. 1503)

The Sermon: **“APOCALYPTIC ADVENT: THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME NEAR**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 67
“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

*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:
“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Robert A. Hobby

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Glenda Buteyn – assistant director (8:40)

Jim Elzinga, Ben VanHouten – vocalists (11:00)

The Heeringa Family (8:40) The Elzinga Family (11:00) – candle lighters

Rene Baatenburg and Joellah Bouwman – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding and Noah Batts – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave: (8:40)

John Ness Beck (1948-1987) was a college music professor, founder of a retail music store and his own publishing company, guest conductor, and clinician. His many anthems from the 1970s and 80s were staples in the sacred choral repertoire and remain so today. The words of Isaiah 40:4-5 are given new life set to a lyrical melody sung over a repetitive rhythm in the organ accompaniment. Two key changes lead to the final declamatory stanza with full, rich chords, bringing the anthem to a dramatic close.

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 Landheer and children.**

The November special offering is for **World Renew**, which works in 30 countries responding to both natural disasters and civil unrest. With partner organizations, they provide for displaced families and invest in local economies to help rebuild communities and renew hope, bringing long-term stability for future storms.

There is **no worship service this evening.**

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live