

December 11, 2022

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:

“Three Choral Preludes on *Savior of the Nations, Come*”

J.S. Bach

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Albert Travis

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“O Christ! Come Back to Save Your Folk” (8:40)

O Christ! Come back to save your folk. Burst through the clouds with one clean stroke. Unfurl the glory promised us. Surprise with joy those keeping trust.

O Christ! Remove our advent fears. Bolster our hope, excite our cheers. Bring on full life both new and free. Trumpet at last the jubilee!

Text: Calvin Seerveld, 1983, ©

The Handbell Introit:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (11:00)

arr. Joel Raney

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 477

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Reading: Isaiah 9:2

The Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Those before us in life and faith watched and prayed. And God answered: **He did not hide his face or hand his people over to the power of sin, but drew them back to his way.** We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God into the world. **Our minds are ready for truth, Lord. Our minds are ready for truth.**

The Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We confess that we are often so preoccupied with pleasures that we overlook the joy you offer us. We are so concerned with making a living that we miss the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and hearts to receive your gift, our lips and hands to share it with all humanity, and set our hearts toward anticipating your return. In the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

The Sung Response: “My Soul in Stillness Waits”

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits;

tru - ly my hope is in you.

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, based on Psalm 62:5 and "O" Antiphons
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The Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:9-12

*The Hymn of Commitment: Worship & Rejoice 153

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Keep Your Lamps!” (8:40)

Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary, 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

The Handbell Anthem:

“The King Shall Come” (11:00)

Nancy A. Norman

The Offering

The Offertory:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

J. Wayne Kerr

*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 25:1-13 (p.1544)

The Sermon: **“APOCALYPTIC ADVENT: THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Closing Hymn: Worship & Rejoice 164

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

*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 and Alla breve from
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

James Biery

Dr. John Rottman – guest minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

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

Perrin Rynders – conga drums

Bells Jubilate, Dr. James Borst – director (11:00)

The Horton Family (8:40) The Plantinga Family (11:00) – candle lighters

Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Dan and Natalie Molenbeek – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave: (11:00)

Keep Your Lamps originated as a slave song improvised following the hearing of a sermon based on Matthew 25. Through repetition, the music and text remind us to always be ready for Christ’s coming. Jesus was a deliverer and hope for slaves. Through the singing of this song, the slaves undoubtedly experienced deliverance from bondage. Andre Thomas (b. 1952) is a preeminent American conductor, clinician and arranger of spirituals. This arrangement would not be complete without the rhythmic conga drum accompaniment.

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.

This Sunday morning our guest minister is **Dr. John Rottman**. John is a LaGrave member and the recently retired professor of preaching at Calvin Seminary.

The flowers on the chancel today are 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 and Larry VanPoeping**. **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 December special offering is for **Camp Tall Turf**, a 40-year-old Christian camp offering leadership training and mentoring for inner city and greater Grand Rapids youth.

This afternoon is the **Children’s Christmas Program** at 4:00 p.m. There will be no 6:00 p.m. service. **The King’s Choraliers Christmas Concert** will be presented at 7:30 p.m.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live