

December 10, 2023

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 & 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”

Charles Ore, Gerald Near, Johannes Brahms

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“God Reigns! Earth Rejoices” (8:40)

God reigns! Earth rejoices! Oceans shout God's might! Clad in truth and joy, God's throne is our delight. Clouds roll aside, and night becomes as day. God will dwell among us; God will show the way!

Light dawns for the righteous, joy for God's own heirs—love all loves excelling, grace beyond compare. Daughters and sons, God's majesty proclaim! Let your hearts declare the Lord's most holy name!

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“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (11:00)

Joel Raney

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,2,4,7

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Reading

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Reading: Isaiah 42:16

The Sung Response:

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Worship & Rejoice 178 words: Bob McGee ©1976 C.A. Music. Used with permission under CCLI#461624

The Prayer of Confession:

During Advent, Lord,

We look for you to show us our way.

And we cling to the promise that you are “God With Us”—

With us in the shadows, leading us toward the light.

Forgive us for the places in our lives we would rather keep hidden,

away from your all-seeing gaze, and out of the sight of our neighbor.

For you see us in all our extremity, and you are full of mercy.

In Christ's name, Amen.

The Words of Forgiveness: based on 1 John 1:5-7

God is light; in him is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*The Hymn of Celebration: Lift Up Your Hearts 56

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

We Celebrate God's Promises in Baptism (11:00)

The Meaning of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism of **Isaiah William Doorn**, son of

Micah and Claire Doorn

Prayer Partners: Aaron & Jana Eding

Children are invited to come forward for the baptism, and leave during the song of response

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 691:1,3,5

“Amazing Grace”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message (8:40)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Hope of the World” (8:40)

Taylor Davis

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion, speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent. Save us, thy people, from consuming passion, who by our own false hopes and aims are spent. Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven, bringing to hungry souls the bread of life; still let thy Spirit unto us be given, to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife. Hope of the world, a foot on dusty highways, showing to wandering souls the path of light; walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways lure us away from thee to endless night. Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious, who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain; we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious; thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign. Hope of the world.

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“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (11:00)

Arnold B. Sherman

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. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

The Offering

The Offertory:

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Alfred Fedak

*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: Genesis 3:17-24

The Sermon: **“JESUS IN GENESIS: FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 92
“Joy to the World”

*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:
“Organ Flourish on *Joy to the World*” Michael G. Dell

Rev. Peter Jonker– minister
Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)
Bells Jubilate, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)

Tom & Cathy Mulder (8:40) Sheryl & Don VanEck (11:00) – candle lighters
Chad Boorsma & Rachel Thorne – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Olivia Alcumbrack & Celine Alcumbrack – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

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

The Advent Wreath is a circle which reminds us of God who is eternal with no beginning and no end. The four ring candles represent the light of God coming into the world. They also represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent. The pink candle symbolizes the joy of the eminent coming of the Christ. The white, center candle is the Christ candle. It reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the Christmas season. Jesus, the light of the world, comes into the darkness of our lives and brings new life and hope.

Music at LaGrave (11:00)

In some denominations, the Advent hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* is sung to the tune HYFRYDOL, not the two-line tune STUTTGART which is more commonly sung in the CRC. Arnold Sherman’s handbell arrangement of this Charles Wesley texted hymn creatively weaves the tune HYFRYDOL

with another Advent hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. A fanfare-like ending echoes the rhythm of the refrain “Rejoice! Rejoice!”

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

This evening the young people will lead us in worship. **We will meet at 4 pm** (note the special time!) and our children will tell the story of Christ's coming in their annual children’s Christmas program. **After the program we will share a meal together in the Multi-Purpose room.** It should be a wonderful evening for all ages. Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live