

## January 7, 2024

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:

“Meditation on *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*”

James Biery

“In Thee Is Gladness”

Paul Manz

“Improvisation on *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*”

Paul Manz

The Chiming of the Hour

\*The Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

You, Creator God, brought light out of the darkness.

**You, Protector God, marched before your people as a pillar of light in the desert night.**

Your glory shone from the face of your son, Jesus, **who alone could say, “I am the light of the world.”**

The people who sit in darkness, have seen a great light.

**Let us celebrate the Light of the world.**

\*The Opening Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 93***

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

\*The Greeting

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Reading: Psalm 27

*The reading will include the singing of the refrain below. Each time it will be sung twice.*

My God is my light and my sal - va - tion. Whom shall I fear?

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The Pastoral Prayer

*Prayer will include this response from Psalm 27:1*

Leader: You, Lord, are our light and our salvation.

**People: With you, there is no need to fear.**

\*The Song of Illumination: ***Lift Up Your Hearts 763***

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

The Scripture: Luke 2:22-38 (p. 1594)

The Sermon: **“LIGHT FOR ALL”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

*As we commit ourselves to shine the Light of Christ into a dark world, we light individual candles with the light spread from the Christ candle. Please tip your unlit candle toward the lighted candle that is offered to you. When all the candles are lit, we will rise and sing together.*

\*The Hymn of Response:

“This Little Light of Mine”

*Verse 1*

**This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!**

**This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!**

**This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

*Verse 2*

**Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine...**

*Verse 3*

**Jesus gave it to me, I’m gonna let it shine...**

\*The Closing Response:

Jesus said, “I have called you to be the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light for everyone in the house to see.

**Empower us, Lord our God, to shine our light before others, so that they may see our good deeds and give glory to you, our Father in heaven.**

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

\*The Organ Amen

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

“We Three Kings”

Paul Manz

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

Chad Boorsma – minister

Dr. Rob Hobgood – organist

Maddy Walcott, Eli Walcott, Ella Walcott,

Grace Walcott, Avery Walcott, Nolan Walcott – acolytes

**Epiphany is the liturgical season from Christmastide to Lent.** During this time we focus on Jesus Christ, the Savior, who is the manifestation of God’s light in our dark and sin-filled world. As we grow in our knowledge of God’s redemptive acts through Jesus Christ, we are called to respond by bringing the light of the gospel to our neighborhoods and the world. These concepts are reflected in the symbol of the Trinity and the gold and white colors used in the banners and paraments.

**The flowers on the chancel today** are given in gratitude to our faithful and hardworking staff to encourage and bless their ongoing work in the 2024 new year. Your grateful congregation.

**The January special offering** is for **Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF)** which provides housing opportunities, home ownership counseling, home repairs and maintenance for families who otherwise cannot afford a home.

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