

December 31, 2017

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:

“In dulci jubilo (In Sweetest Joy)” J. S. Bach
“Solemn Prelude on *In the Bleak Midwinter*” Larry Visser

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “O Jesus So Gentle, Jesus So Sweet” harm. J. S. Bach
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, thy Father's task didst thou complete. From heaven high and kingly crown to lowly man thou camest down. O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, grant that we see thy love so great. All that we have belongs to thee; thou hast redeemed us, set us free, O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 92
“Joy to the World”
(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Sung Call to Confession: Lift Up Your Hearts 88:4
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Prayer of Confession:

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding. You sent your Son into the world to take away our sins and give us an example of how to live. We confess that we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have done things we should not have done, said things we regret and know our thoughts are not always pure. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace symbolized in baptism, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, the baby born in a manger who now lives and reigns with you. In his strong name we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Luke 2:11, John 1:29, John 3:16

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts:88:1,2
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Children's Message (8:40)

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?

Congregation: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

(Children, 4-2nd grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Explanation of Baptism (11:00)

The Vows of Parents and Congregation (11:00)

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)

Avis Nicole VandenAkker, daughter of

Dan & Katie VandenAkker

(Prayer Partner: Sher Engbers)

(Children 4-2nd grade may come forward to witness the baptism)

*The Baptismal Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 86 (11:00)

“Away in a Manger”

The Anthem:

“The People That Walked in Darkness” from *Messiah*
G. F. Handel

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
Isaiah 9:2

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offertory

The Offertory Anthem:

“The Work of Christmas” Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart.

Text used by permission of Friends United Press: Thurman, Howard

The Offering

Today's offering is for Camp Tall Turf and the LaGrave General Fund. Please use an envelope from the pew to designate your gift. All undesignated monies will go to the General Fund. (Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

*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: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (pg. 1038)
Galatians 4:4-7 (pg. 1810)

The Sermon: **“GOD'S TIME”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 404
“God of Our Life”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”

Keith Chapman

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Rev. Joe VandenAkker – guest minister

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Jonathan Ten Brink – vocalist

Ivan Jekel and Nate Versluis – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Renee Kuipers and Della Landheer – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Tonight Rev. Boven will preach on Joshua 4:1-9. Her sermon is entitled, “Stones that Speak.” We will also celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.

Baritone **Jonathan Ten Brink**, son of Paul and Carol Ten Brink, is an active baritone in opera, oratorio, and chamber music. He and his wife Becky currently live in Lansing where Jon leads the music department at Lansing Community College. A Grammy nominated artist, Dr. Ten Brink has performed over 700 concerts across 30 states. Welcome, Jon, to worship at LaGrave, and may God bless your music ministry among us this morning.

Music at LaGrave

Howard Washington Thurman (1899-1981) was an African-American theologian, philosopher, author, educator, and mentor to key leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr. His poem *The Work of Christmas* addresses Christmas not as a one-time event, but an event that calls for a response of showing love, peace, and aid to our neighbor, and ultimately making music in our hearts. The simplistic music of Dan Forrest beautifully captures the meaning and significance of Thurman’s text.

The December special offering is for Camp Tall Turf.

Camp Tall Turf is specifically designed to teach campers about the value of diversity. Campers who attend Tall Turf develop critical cross-cultural skills in a fun, safe and engaging environment. Students who attend come from all walks of life but are united by the shared belief that we are all made in the image of God.