

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Family Instrumental Carol Sing

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.

EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

Please prepare your heart and mind for worship with a time of prayer and meditation.

The Prelude:

“Joy to the World”

Lowell Mason

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Lewis H. Redner

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

14th Century German carol

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship:

But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord God.

In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

But in the last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

The Word has become flesh,
And we have seen his glory.

*The Opening Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 81:1,2,4,5
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

THE STATIONS OF THE MANGER

WAITING

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

It starts with waiting. The prophets stood in the darkness, but they never stopped looking for the light.

Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Maraleisa VandenHeuvel

Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 67

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

THE UNFAILING WORD

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

In the darkness, the promises seem more than unlikely. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Ron Redder

Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 56

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

OBEDIENCE

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

Faith is more than simply believing the promises; faith is obedience. Joseph does hard things because he believes God's word.

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Claire Doorn

Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,2,3

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

God's salvation comes! And it comes in the most unexpected way, in the most unlikely place.

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Ike Ondersma

Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 85

“Silent Night! Holy Night”

UNEXPECTED JOY

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

Did the shepherds fully understand who Jesus was?

Probably not. But that didn't stop their joy.

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Grant Mensonides

*Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 82

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who follow him have good understanding. (Psalm 111:10)

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Nelson Greidanus

Carol: *Worship and Rejoice 233:1,2,4,5*

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

ANSWERED PRAYER

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

How long does a person have to wait to see God's salvation? Sometimes they have to wait a lifetime.

Reading: Luke 2:22-35

Chad Scholtens

Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 97

“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”

TRANSFORMATION

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

Mary knows what her son's birth means. She prophesies about how the coming of Jesus will change the world.

Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Melanie Scott

Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 383

“My Spirit Glorifies the Lord”

THE TRUTH HAS A HUMAN FACE

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

If you want a person to know the truth, don't give them a list of rules and principles; introduce them to Jesus.

Reading: John 1:1-14

Ruth Tucker

*Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 80

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Offertory:

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Polish carol

“What Child is This?”

16th Century English carol

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 FINAL VICTORY

Let us walk the stations of the manger.

Our world is broken and our hearts are longing for a Savior.

Through his sacrifice, the Child in the manger will become the Lord of all things!

Reading: Revelation 5:1-12

Peter Jonker

*Closing Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 87:1,2,4,5

“Once in Royal David’s City”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Joy to the World”

Charles Ore, David Cherwien

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

The LaGrave Orchestra, Dr. John Worst – conductor

Ruth Bylsma, Laura Muresan, Laura Schipper, Payton Speulstra – flute

Nancy Greidanus, Sarah Horton – clarinet

Marge Hoogeboom, Alanna Rynders – oboe

Rory Pruis, Bill Stroo, Mary Worst – alto saxophone

Hans Pruis, Becky Rhoda – bassoon

Sara Good, Emily Redder, Isabella Redder, Nadia Speulstra,

Ashley Grace Stephenson, Barbara Swinehart – violin

Patricia Stephenson – viola

Calin Muresan, Christina Leigh Stephenson – cello

Jonah Gollihugh – string bass

Micah Doorn, Aaron Good, Bob Otte, Chad Scholtens – trumpet

Paul Bakker, Joel Bouwman, Jonathah Bouwman,

Leah Bouwman, Roland Lindh – french horn

Jacob Feenstra, Ike Ondersma, Peter Tigchelaar,

Ally VanHekken – trombone

Donna Bakker, Jim Hoek, Peter Jouwstra, John Ubels,

Rachel Vogel – baritone

Gord Bylsma – tuba

Perrin Rynders, Tanner Visser, Andrew Vogel,

Debra Vogel – timpani, percussion

The flowers on the chancel are given by **Marianne Stehouwer** in loving memory of her husband, **Charlie**. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

The December special offering is for Camp Tall Turf. Camp Tall Turf reaches youth and families through camp experiences. CTT instills the biblical message of reconciliation to campers through sessions that are specifically designed to teach children about the value of diversity by creating cross cultural experiences and relationships.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.