

December 22, 2019

Fourth 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. 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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

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

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Larry Visser

“O Jesus, So Gentle, O Jesus, So Sweet”

Feike Asma

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

harm: Johann Sebastian Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning; ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 78:1,3,4,5

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

(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 Call to Confession:

In the season of Advent, our hearts are longing for Jesus.
We wait for the coming of the Lord.

In the season of Advent, we look through the darkness to the everlasting light.

Jesus is our light and our hope.

We light this candle for our joy. Our worries can feel overwhelming. Sometimes we can't stop thinking about the things we've lost or the things we might lose. Sometimes we can't stop thinking about the things we've done, or the things we've left undone. We don't know what the future holds; but we know who holds us. Jesus comes to forgive our sins and bring us joy. He says, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your heavenly Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

Luke 12:32

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Our longing hearts wait for you.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We are lost in darkness. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We humbly confess our sins and ask you for mercy. Shine your light and forgiveness into our hearts. And guide us to walk in the light and do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

(concluded by a time of silence and followed by singing)

“When God First Brought Us Back”

Once more, O Lord, restore your people; come with your saving help again, as to the brook-beds in the desert you bring the sweet, reviving rain. Let those who sow with tears and sighing sing as they reap and joy proclaim; may those who weep when seed is scattered gather their sheaves and praise your name.

LUYH 55:2

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The Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:5,7

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 59

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

The Profession of Faith: (11:00) Henry Anderson

The Hymn of Response: (11:00) Lift Up Your Hearts: 75:1,3
Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor”

The Children's Message

(Children, 4's, K -1st grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Magnificat”

Charles Villiers Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior, for he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed, for he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat; and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Luke 1:46-55

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Ruth 4 (pg. 412)

The Sermon: **“HUNGRY IN THE HOUSE OF BREAD:
FULLNESS”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 92

“Joy to the World”

The Offertory:

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

James Biery

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.)

After the offering plate has passed, members of the congregation and visitors are invited to come forward and join the Chancel Choir for the traditional singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

*The Anthem: "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!

*The Benediction

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

*The Final Hallelujah

*The Postlude:
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Edwin C. Johnson
Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director
Debra Vogel – timpanist
Mark and Remington Stuit – Candle Lighters (8:40)
Chris, Bradley, Elise and Emma Nuiver – Candle Lighters (11:00)
Ella and Becca VandeGriend – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Dan and Natalie Molenbeek – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

Throughout the history of music, numerous composers received inspiration from the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55), also known as the Magnificat. Irish-born Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) wrote his setting of the virgin Mary's song at the height of the English Cathedral choral tradition. Rich, full harmonies and text painting are heard throughout the piece, which concludes with an exuberant Gloria Patri, a doxology to the Holy Trinity.

Two years ago today, **Rev. Herman Keizer** met his Savior whose name he proclaimed all his days. The flowers are a loving memory from his wife, **Ardis**.

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.

There is no evening service.