

December 26, 2021

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 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:

“Où S'en vont Ces gais bergers? (Where Are These Happy Shepherds Going?)”

Claude Balbastre

“Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child (Coventry Carol)”

William Lloyd Webber

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“See, Amid the Winter Snow”

See, amid the winter snow, born for us on earth below; see, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years:

(Refrain) Hail, O ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Holy Savior, born on earth, teach us by your lowly birth; grant that we may ever be taught by such humility. (Refrain)

Words: E Caswall

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 80
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Call to Repentance: 1 John 3:16-18

The Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are humble: before you and our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess our sins. We have ignored the cries of refugees. We have failed to lift up the oppressed. We have been blind to your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned. In your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: John 3:16-17

*The Hymn of Response: “The Day That Followed Jesus' Birth”
(see insert)

We Celebrate God's Covenant Faithfulness

The Promises of Baptism

The Baptismal Vows of Parents and Congregation

The Sacrament of Baptism:

Owen Joseph VandenAkker, son of Dan and Katie VandenAkker

Prayer Partner: Ann VanderWoude

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“Still, Still, Still”

Mark Shepperd

Still, still, still, how the Christ child sleeps so still. The virgin softly, sweetly singing, while above, the angels winging. Still, still, still, how the Christ child sleeps so still.

Hear, hear, hear, heavenly voices sound so clear. Now gently soothe the royal babe while silent startlight manger bathes. Hear, hear, hear, heavenly voices sound so clear.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, precious Child of hope, now sleep. The Son of God come down from above filling our hearts with endless love. Sleep, sleep, sleep, precious Child of Hope, now sleep.

Child of hope, now sleep.

Text: Jayne Rasmussen & Mark Shepperd
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The Pastoral Prayer

God Speaks to Us

The Preparatory Carol: Coventry Carol

1. Lullay, thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay; lullay, thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.
2. O sisters, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day; this poor Youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.
3. Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day; his men of might, in his own sight, all children young, to slay.
4. Then woe is me, poor Child, for thee, and ever mourn and say; for thy parting nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

The Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

The Sermon: “**THE DARK SIDE OF CHRISTMAS**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in Peace

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

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“In dulci jubilo (Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)

J.S. Bach, David Cherwien

Rev. David Bast – guest minister

Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Becky Rhoda – vocalist

Merv Kamper and Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave:

Author Jayne Rasmussen and composer Mark Shepperd penned a new text based on the words of the Austrian carol *Still, Still, Still* that portray the peaceful scene of the nativity. Each verse of this lullaby-like carol begins with a lilting and descending melodic line and features a single word repeated three times: “Still, still, still...Hear, hear, hear...Sleep, sleep, sleep.” The words sung at the conclusion of the anthem remind us that the Child born in a manger is also the Child who is the Hope of the entire world.

Christmas Banners at LaGrave: The primary sanctuary color of Christmas is white, symbolizing the purity and holiness of Jesus. The Christ child born in the manger was truly God and truly man. The only respect in which his humanity differed from you and me is that Jesus was perfect and lived a sinless life. It was that very sinless life that enabled him to take our sins upon himself.

The gold color represents the kingship of Christ. The colors in the banners bring together the First Advent, purple; the birth of Christ, white; and the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent, gold, in the joy and celebration of Christmas. Christ, our King, is born!

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

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live