

January 2, 2022

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:

“Noel on *O Leave Your Sheep*”

Larry Visser

“What Is This Lovely Fragrance?”

Harrison Oxley

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Paul Manz

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year”

Alfred V. Fedak

Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere; rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

This Jesus came to wage sin's war; the name of names for us he bore; rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

“All glory be to God on high and peace on earth,” the angels cry; rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

Text: Slovak, 17th cent; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, alt. © 1969, Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission under One License #797908

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 93

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Call to Confession: Hebrews 12:1-3

The Prayer of Confession:

We fix our eyes on you, Lord Jesus, knowing that you are always attentive to us. In your mercy, open our eyes to the postures of our hearts and the works of our hands that do not honor you. Help us to change as we turn away from these things and invite you to make us new, in your image. Show us the path of life. In your name. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: 2 Corinthians 3:18

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 730

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

*The Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*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.

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Long Ago within the Temple”

Long ago within the temple stood a little boy one day, and the doctors wondered greatly at the words they heard him say.

(Refrain) It was Jesus Christ, our Savior! He was but a little child, but the light of heaven was shining in his face so pure and mild.

With the teachers there they found him, though a lowly, learning youth, but his answers as he told them were complete with heavenly truth.

(Refrain)

Let us ever then be eager to sit down at Jesus' feet, to be learning from our Savior, and his lessons to repeat. (Refrain)

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Luke 2:40-52

The Sermon: **“WINDOWS ON THE WORD: JESUS IN THE TEMPLE”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 356

“Fill Thou My Life, O Lord, My God”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Ere zij God (Glory to God)

Jan Zwart

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Karel de Waal Malefyt – vocalist
Carmen Day and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave:

This morning's introit celebrates the New Year and invites us to "rejoice with thanks for another year of grace." Czechoslovakian-born Lutheran pastor and poet Jaroslav J. Vajda translated and prepared the English text of this hymn in 1968 from the original Slovakian hymn from 1602. While the first stanza is a call to rejoice in the New Year, the final stanza echoes the song of the angels at Christ's birth. The joyful hymn tune and harmonization are by Hope College alumnus and church music composer, Alfred V. Fedak.

The beautiful flowers that were on the chancel *last week* Sunday, December 26, were given by **Ardis Keizer**, in loving memory of dear husband, **Chaplain Herm Keizer**. He went to his heavenly home four years ago on December 22. "Blessed are those who die in the Lord."

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