

December 18, 2022

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, 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 AM & 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:

“Where Are These Happy Shepherds Going?” Claude Balbastre
“Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor” Harrison Oxley

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”
*Awake! awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens
wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.*

Words and Music: Marty Haugen

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 78
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Reading: Isaiah 2:4

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears in to pruning hooks; **nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Those before us in life and faith watched and prayed. And God answered: **When their enemies advanced, he called them to repentance and rest and showed them his salvation.** We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God into the world. **Our strength waits on you, Lord. Our wills are ready for your light.**

The Prayer of Confession:

Father, we live in a world of conflict and confusion, where darkness and evil seem to have the upper hand. In the midst of the chaos, we often despair. Forgive us, Lord, **for turning our eyes from your face, for placing our hope in the things of the world, and for failing to trust in your sovereign ways.** Send your light and your faithful care, **that they may lead us all our days.** In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, Amen.

The Sung Response: “My Soul in Stillness Waits”



Words and Music: Marty Haugen, based on Psalm 62:5 and “O” Antiphons
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The Assurance of Forgiveness: Based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.
Thanks be to God!

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 59
“Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”

We Celebrate God’s Covenant Promises (8:40)

The Meaning of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism:

Mariyaah Galilee Ruakh Colago (8:40)
daughter of Miles and Sarah Colago
Prayer Partner: Becca VandeGriend

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 730: 1,3 (8:40)
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

The Children’s Message (11:00)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob” Felix Mendelssohn
There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel, with might destroying princes and cities. As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation. Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation; thine be praise and adoration! Numbers 24:17

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Revelation 12 (p.1925-1926)

The Sermon: **“APOCALYPTIC ADVENT: THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 91
“God Reigns! Earth Rejoices”

The Offertory:

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Johannes Brahms, Jacobus Klopffer

The Offering

After the offering plate has passed you in the pew, members of the congregation and visitors are invited to come forward and join the chancel choir for the traditional singing of the Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Scores will be provided in the chancel.

*The Hallelujah Chorus 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 Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Let Earth Receive Her King! (Joy to the World)”

Richard Elliott

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Chad Boorsma – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director

Perrin Rynders – timpanist

The Christner Family (8:40) The Veldkamp Family (11:00) – candle lighters

Nolan and Avery Walcott – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding and Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave:

Today's postlude was composed by Richard Elliott, primary organist at the Mormon Tabernacle. His festive arrangement combines the carol *Joy to the World, For unto Us a Child is Born* and the *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah*, and Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

The banners and parament reflect the message from Isaiah 9:6, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” In Advent we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus breaks through the world's darkness with his glory, bringing us the light of salvation.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Marianne Stehouwer** in loving memory of her husband, **Charles J. Stehouwer**, who went to glory on 12/4/2012. "Blessed are those who die in the Lord.”

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.

The evening service will be an **Instrumental Carol Sing** with a 50-member, all-church orchestra. Several carols will be sung, accompanied by the orchestra under the direction of Karel de Waal Malefyt.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live