

**December 25, 2022**

*Christmas Day*

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:

“Away in a Manger”

“Noel Grand Jeu et Duo”

Keith Chapman

Louis Claude Daquin

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Gustav Holst, arr. Larry Visser

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.*

\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 82

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

\*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

### ***We Arrive at the Stable***

The Christmas Story: Luke 2:1-7

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 98

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

The Litany of Joy: Part of the Nicene Creed and John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages,

**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Jesus is God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Jesus is born! The world's true Light has come.  
**Alleluia!**

The Hymn: Worship and Rejoice 202

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

\*The Hymn: Worship and Rejoice 229:1, 4-6

“The First Noel”

The Offering

The Offertory Anthem:

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

traditional Spiritual, arr. Rollo Dilworth

Refrain:

*Jesus, what a wonderful Child, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild. New life, new hope, to all he brings. Listen to the angels sing: “Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King!”*

*He was heralded by the angels, yes, born in lowly manger. God chose a virgin as his mother, and Joseph as his earthly father. Three wisemen trav'lin' from afar, wisemen were trav'lin', they were guided by that shinin' star to see King Jesus where he lay in a manger full of hay. (Refrain)*

*Some traveled north, some traveled south to see this wonderful Child. Some traveled east, some traveled west to see this wonderful Child. (Refrain)*

*Celebrate Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child! (Refrain)*

\*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### ***God Speaks to Us***

The Scripture: John 1:9-13 (p. 1665)

The Anthem:

“What Child Is This?”

arr. Molly Ijames

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.*

*Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*Raise, raise a song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary. This Babe, the Son, the Son of God.*

The Sermon: “**HE CAME TO HIS OWN**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

### ***We Go in His Peace***

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 75  
“Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor”

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:  
“I Saw Three Ships”

David Lasky

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister  
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist  
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist  
Jess Hollenbach, Carole Medema, Glenda Buteyn – vocalists  
Merv Kamper and Rachel Rynbrandt – Cross and Bible Bearers

**The sanctuary colors of Christmas are white, purple, and gold.** White symbolizes the purity and holiness of Jesus Christ, Son of God. Yet, he is also Jesus Christ, born of a woman, being both God and human. As a human person, Jesus was like us in every respect except he was without sin. Therefore, he was able to take our sins upon himself and redeem us. Purple represents the birth of Jesus but also foreshadows his coming death. All of the colors combine against the background of gold. Gold represents the kingship of Jesus and also our joy and celebration of the Christmas season.

Our women’s trio is made up of LaGrave members **Glenda Buteyn and Jess Hollenbach**, who are joined by Jess’ mother, **Carole Medema**. We thank these singers for sharing their gifts on this Christmas Day.

### **Music at LaGrave:**

The rollicking African-American Spiritual *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child* expresses the joy of the Christmas Gift from a slave’s perspective. The coming of Christ, the Newborn King, brings us new gifts: new hope, new joy, and new life. The refrain from this Spiritual appears in our *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal (#99). Rollo Dilworth’s gospel style arrangement for three women’s voices invites us to sing with the angels: “Glory, glory to the Newborn King.”

The flowers on the chancel today are in loving memory of **Rev. Herman Keizer** from his wife, **Ardis Keizer**. Five years ago Herman met his Savior whose name he proclaimed all his days.

**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. Merry Christmas!

Livestreaming worship is available at [lagrave.org/live](http://lagrave.org/live)