

December 10, 2023

*Second Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program*

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.

Children's Christmas Service - 4:00 PM

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

Prelude:

"O Come, Little Children"

Michael Burkhardt

"The Friendly Beasts"

J. Wayne Kerr

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Raymond H. Haan

"Noel on 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

Larry Visser

Chiming of the Hour

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Call to Worship:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders.

His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 82

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Greeting

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

Welcome

The Friendly Beasts

Balaam's Donkey

Character:

Balaam's Donkey: Natalie Oosterhouse

The Donkey

The Annunciation

Song: "The Friendly Beasts"

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,

was humbly born in a stable rude.

The friendly beasts around him stood.

Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I carried his mother up hill and down,

I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;

I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

Characters:

Mary's Donkey: Avery Verploegh

Narrator: Polly Slotsema

Angel: Miriam Fletcher

Mary: Caroline Hakes

Response: "Prepare the Way for the Lord"

*Prepare the way for the Lord, for he comes, prepare his way,
for he comes!*

*Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain shall be
made low. The crooked straight, the rough places plain.*

Isaiah 40:3-4

The Dove

Jesus is Born

Song: "The Friendly Beasts"

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,

we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;

I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

Characters:

Dove: Madie Kuiper

Narrator: Julia Plantinga

Mary: Caroline Hakes

Joseph: Remi Stuit

Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 86

"Away in a Manger"

Stanza 1 – children

Stanza 2-3 – congregation

The Sheep

Shepherds Come to the Manger

Song: "The Friendly Beasts"

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,

"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,

he wore my coat on Christmas morn;

I," said the sheep with curly horn.

Characters:

Sheep: Elsie Fletcher

Narrator: Polly Slotsema

Angel: Norah Hollenbach

Shepherds: Penny Hakes, Preston Slotsema,

Pierce Slotsema

Response:

"Angels' Carol"

John Rutter

*Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?*

Have you seen the star, shining out so brightly

as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven

to the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo,

hear the angels sing their joyful song

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,

like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;

he is come in joy like the sun at morning

filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary,

in a simple stable we have seen his birth:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo,
hear the angels singing "Peace on earth."*

The Camel Magi Visit from the East

Song: "The Friendly Beasts"

*"I," said the camel so cranky and strong,
"I bore three gifts through a desert long
to meet the Lord of angel song.
I," said the camel, so cranky and strong.*

Characters:

Camel: Annika Plantinga

Narrator: Julia Plantinga

Magi: Caleb Ackerman, Gavin Ponstein,
Landon Schimmel

Response: **Worship and Rejoice 233:1,2,5**

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Stanza 1 – children

Stanza 2, 5 – congregation

Balaam's Donkey The Conclusion

Character:

Balaam's Donkey: Natalie Oosterhouse

The Hymn: **Lift Up Your Hearts 92**

"Joy to the World"

Stanza 1 – Children

Stanzas 2-4 – Congregation

The Prayer

*The Closing Hymn: **Lift Up Your Hearts 80**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*The Benediction

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

*The Parting Bells:

"The Echo Carol (While by My Sheep)"

arr. Joyce Eilers

*The Postlude:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Neil Harmon

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Church School Children's Choir, Jess Hollenbach – director
3-6 grade choir, 7-12 grade choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director
Bells Gloria, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director
Jess Hollenbach – pianist
Norma de Waal Malefyt – organist
Isabella Redder – cover art

The flowers on the chancel today are in loving memory of **Sandra Ann Duyst** and **Mary Ellen Spring**, precious daughters, sisters, and aunts of **Larry Sr. & Dolores Bos** and the families of **Larry Jr. & Dawn Bos** and **Laura and Larry VanPopering**. **Dolores** was called home August 2, 2018. Thanks be to God for the love and joy she brought into each of our lives as a family, wife and mother. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh; blessed be the name of the Lord."

The December special offering 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.

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS



4:00 PM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 10, 2023

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church