

January 7, 2024

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 & 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:

“French Noel on *Angels We Have Heard on High*” Larry Visser
“Angel Voices, Ever Singing” Emma Lou Diemer

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”
You servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name; the name all-victorious of Jesus extol; his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

Then let us adore and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might, all honor and blessing—with angels above—and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

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

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: Matthew 4:12-17

The Prayer of Confession:

Jesus, the Light of the World, has come. And still, O Light Eternal, we walk in darkness all too often, trusting in what we can see rather than walking in faith guided by the Light of Life. Forgive us for walking like those who do not know the Light. In your mercy and by your Word, be the light on our path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon: John 14:6-7

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 329:1,3
“Lead Me, Guide Me”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“All Night, All Day” (8:40) Spiritual, arr. Walter Ehret
All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord. All night, all day, angels watching over me. Day is dying in the west, angels watching over me, my Lord. Sleep, my child, take your rest, angels watching over me. Now I lay me down to sleep, angels watching over me, my Lord. Pray the Lord my soul to keep, angels watching over me.

“For He Shall Give His Angels” from *Elijah* (11:00)

Felix Mendelssohn
For he shall give his angels charge over thee, that they shall protect thee in all the ways thou goest, that their hands shall uphold and guide thee lest thou dash thy foot against a stone, they shall uphold thee.

Psalm 91:11-12

The Offertory:

“Beautiful Savior” Clay Christiansen
“Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.”

The Offering

*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.**

God Speaks to Us

The Song of Illumination: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”
**O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
and life more abundant and free!**

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
in the light of his glory and grace.**

The Scripture: Hebrews 1 (p.1860)

The Sermon: “ANGELS UNAWARES”

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 328
“Lead On, O King Eternal”

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

Paul Manz

Dr. Stan Mast – minister
Erin Alley – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Vocal Quartet, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)
Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano
Jess Hollenbach – alto
Jim Elzinga – tenor
Peter Redder – bass
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)
Avery Walcott & Nolan Walcott – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Olivia Alcumbrack & Celine Alcumbrack – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

We welcome back to our pulpit today **Dr. Stan Mast**, who served as LaGrave's Minister of Preaching from 1990-2012. Following his retirement from LaGrave, Stan served as an adjunct professor of preaching at Calvin Seminary and most recently as interim pastor of preaching at Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church in Jenison.

Epiphany is the liturgical season from Christmastide to Lent. During this time we focus on Jesus Christ, the Savior, who is the manifestation of God's light in our dark and sin-filled world. As we grow in our knowledge of God's redemptive acts through Jesus Christ, we are called to respond by bringing the light of the gospel to our neighborhoods and the world. These concepts are reflected in the symbol of the Trinity and the gold and white colors used in the banners and paraments.

Music at LaGrave

Among the very few choral pieces based on the theme of angels are two anthems heard this morning. First, a vocal quartet sings an arrangement of the African-American Spiritual *All Night, All Day, Angels Watching over Me*—the prayer of the slave who, through oppression, is guarded by angels. This text includes the well-known prayer many have learned as a child. Second, the Chancel Choir sings Felix Mendelssohn's eight-part chorus from the oratorio *Elijah* titled *For He Shall Give His Angels Charge over Thee* from Psalm 91:11-12.

The flowers on the chancel today are given in gratitude to our faithful and hardworking staff to encourage and bless their ongoing work in the 2024 new year. Your grateful congregation.

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.

This evening we will celebrate Epiphany with a message on Luke 2:22-38. Chad Boorsma will preach, and we will conclude the service by candlelight.