

December 1, 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:

“Meditation on PICARDY”

(Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Harry Strack

Rachel Chapin

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Christ Is Coming!”

Christ is coming! Let creation from her groans and travail cease; let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase: Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.

With that blessed hope before us, let no harp remain unstrung; let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue: “Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!”

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 60

“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Reading:

In Advent, we wait for the coming of Christ.

In Advent, we prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle in hope,

the hope of our coming Savior Jesus.

the lighting of the candle

The Scripture: Psalm 25:4-5

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 63:1

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

The Prayer of Confession

The Words of Forgiveness: Psalm 130:3-4,7

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

People of God, put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 56

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

Prayer will include this response based on John 1:5

Your light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The Anthem:

“Hope of the World”

Lloyd Larson

Hope of the world, help to the helpless; a humble Servant, Savior, Friend; God's only Son, sent to redeem us; hosannas ring praise without end.

Refrain:

Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free. A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see. Amazing love for you and me!

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself; O, nobody else could walk it for him. He had to walk it by himself. Jesus walked this lonesome valley, despised, rejected and alone. He carried our sorrows, griefs and burdens. He had to bear them all alone. Jesus bore them all alone. (Refrain)

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The Offertory:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Albert L. Travis, Craig Sellar Lang

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 Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17 (p. 1500)

The Sermon: **“THE WOMEN OF THE GENEALOGY:
TAMAR”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,4,6,7

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“The King Shall Come”

Michael Burkhardt

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Chad Boorsma – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Andrea Oosterhouse – oboist
Vocal Quartet, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)
Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano; Renee Vande Wege – alto
Jason Reiffer – tenor; Karel de Waal Malefyt – bass
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)
Audrey Schaap & Amber Schaap – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Olivia Alcumbrack & Celine Alcumbrack – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

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

The Advent Wreath is a circle which reminds us that God is eternal with no beginning and no end. The four ring candles represent the light of God coming into the world. They also represent the four Sundays of waiting during Advent. The one pink candle symbolizes the joy of the eminent coming of the Christ. The white, center candle is the Christ candle. It reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the Christmas season. Jesus, the light of the world, comes into the darkness of our lives and brings new life and hope.

Music at LaGrave (8:40): The traditional American folk melody *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* is often heard in the season of Lent, but Lloyd Larson’s anthem recalls that Christ’s journey down that lonesome valley began in Bethlehem: “God’s own Son sent to redeem us . . . Christ comes to set the captive free. A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.” Christ—the Hope of the world, walked that valley all by himself for you and me. Larson’s beautiful anthem is accompanied by a haunting oboe part and a flowing piano part.

The flowers on the chancel today are in memory of daughter and mother, **Rhonda D. Ingersoll**, remembered with love by **Bill, Della, Derek Landheer and children.**

The December special offering is for **Camp Tall Turf.** Camp Tall Turf is a 40-year-old Christian camp offering leadership training and mentoring for inner city and greater Grand Rapids youth.

There is no evening worship service in the sanctuary due to the holiday weekend.