

December 15, 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:

“Variations on a Medieval Carol
(Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth)” Robert Hebble
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Johannes Brahms, Jacobus Kloppers

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (8:40) Arnold B. Sherman
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

“God Reigns! Earth Rejoices” (11:00)
God reigns! Earth rejoices! Oceans shout God's might! Clad in truth and joy, God's throne is our delight. Clouds roll aside, and night becomes as day. God will dwell among us; God will show the way!

Light dawns for the righteous, joy for God's own heirs— love all loves excelling, grace beyond compare. Daughters and sons, God's majesty proclaim! Let your hearts declare the Lord's most holy name.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 478

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

*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 joy,
the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.
the lighting of the candle

The Scripture: Philippians 4:4-5

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 63:2

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

The Prayer of Confession

The Words of Forgiveness: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

For indeed Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.
For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 92:1-3

“Joy to the World”

The Celebration of Table Fellowship (8:40)

Cecilia Becksvort
Bennett Horton
Rosie Stuit

The Celebration of Table Fellowship (11:00)

Malachi Colago
Aaliyah Marietta Colago
Peter Triemstra

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 92:4

“Joy to the World”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (8:40) Joel Raney
O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

“Comfort Ye” (11:00)

Katherine K. Davis
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. Sing, ye heavens, and be joyful, O earth. Break forth into singing, ye mountains, for the Lord hath comforted his people. Comfort ye, my people. Isaiah 40:1, 49: 13

The Offertory:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Wayne L. Wold

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: Ruth 1:8-21, 4:13-17 (p. 409)

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

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 88

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*”

Andrew Carter

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rachel Thorne – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Bells Jubilate, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)
Dan & Linda Slotsema – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Marlene Padding & Carmen Day – 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): Joel Raney’s handbell arrangement of the Advent hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* makes use of both handchimes and handbells and employs a variety of techniques. The melody is first heard played by the milder handchimes, after which the piece explores a variety of key changes and moods. Following a huge buildup in the middle section, the piece concludes as it opened with the handchimes returning to play the first phrase of the hymn melody. This arrangement is based on a four-hand piano duet version by the composer.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Marianne Stehouwer** in loving memory of her husband, **Charles J. Stehouwer**, who went to heaven on 12/4/12. “Blessed are those who die in the Lord.” (Rev. 14:13)

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.

This evening the children will lead us in worship as they share the children's Christmas program! **The service will start at 4:00 p.m.** and will be followed by a congregational dinner.