

**December 22, 2024**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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:

“Noel Grand Jeu et Duo”

Louis Claude Daquin

“The Holy Boy”

John Ireland

“O Jesus So Tender, O Jesus So Sweet”

Feike Asma

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Don Cason

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

*Come, Savior, quickly come; come Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

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\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 74:1,2,3,6,7

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

\*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 peace,  
**the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives the world.**  
*the lighting of the candle*

The Scripture: John 16:33

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 63:4

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

The Prayer of Confession

\*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 65:1,2,3

“Lord, You Have Lavished on Your Land”

### ***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn”

Christopher Aspaas

*As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light. O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, till shades of fear are gone.*

*As the blue expectant hour before the silvering skies, we long to see your day arise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star.*

*As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease, may we your healing light release, living peace unto your holy dawn.*

*Shine your future on this place, enlighten every guest, that through us stream your holiness, bright and blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace. We await your light.*

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

The Scripture: Luke 1:39-56 (p.1591)

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

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

\*The Closing Hymn: Worship & Rejoice 172

“For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed”

The Offertory:

“Pastoral Symphony, from *Messiah*”

G. F. Handel

The Offering

*After the offering plate has passed you in the pew, members of the congregation and visitors are invited to come forward and join the Chancel Choir for the traditional singing of the Handel's “Hallelujah Chorus.”*

\*The Hallelujah Chorus, from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

*Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!*

\*The Benediction

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

\*The Final Hallelujah

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

“Let Earth Receive Her King”

Richard Elliott

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister

Rev. Stan Kruijs – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director

Perrin Rynders – timpanist

Rachel Rynbrandt & Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding & Carmen Day – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Luther Ajim – candle lighter (8:40)

Tim & Krista Schaafsma & Grandchildren Jack, Charlotte & Willow – candle lighters (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 immanent 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:** In keeping with the spirit of the baroque masterpiece *Messiah*, today's offertory is a transcription of the

*Pastoral Symphony* from that revered oratorio, and the postlude, composed by Mormon Tabernacle organist Richard Elliott, combines the hymns *Joy to the World* and *Ode to Joy* with excerpts of *For unto Us a Child Is Born* and the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

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

**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** we will have our annual Christmas Carol Sing. The service will be led by Drs. Visser and Hobgood, accompanied by the 58-member LaGrave Orchestra. This casual, festive service (Pastor Jonker will wear a sweater!) will feature readings and carols for the Christmas season. Come and join us!