

December 29, 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 10:00 AM

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“A Christmas Pastorale”

Johann Mattheson

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

James Kimball

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Roy Brunner, David Lasky

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship: (Psalm 95:1,2,6,7)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Come, let us bow down in worship before the Lord our Maker;

For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 579

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Come Before God with Humility

The Call to Walk with God: Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

The Silent Prayer

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 623:1,2,4

“God, Be Merciful to Me”

Sing verse 2 a cappella

The Word of Grace: Psalm 103:8-18

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 729

“Let This Be My Supreme Desire”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

Prayer will include this song, based on Psalm 84:8, 11-12

Hear our prayer, Lord God Almighty, listen to us.

Hear our prayer, our strong protector, in you we trust.

The Offertory:

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

John Rasley, John Innes

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 Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-16 (p.1873)

The Sermon: **“LIVING BY FAITH”**

The Prayer of Application

We Respond with Dedication

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 407

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Break Forth Into Joy”

Johann Sebastian Bach

Rev. John Steigenga – minister emeritus

Chad Boorsma – liturgist

Nancy Ryskamp – organist

Jake and Molly Versluis – Cross and Bible Bearers (10:00)

The flowers on the chancel today are given in loving memory of **Edwin Diepenhorst**, who entered heaven on December 17, 2014. His granddaughter, Anneke, asked “Opa, what is your favorite color?” His reply, “Yellow because anything that is yellow is never sad.”

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 service.

