

January 7, 2018

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: Your Kindness, Great God” Claude Balbastre
“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
Wilhelm Marpurg, Alexandre-Pierre-François Boëly

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Sing, Sing a New Song to the Lord God”

Sing, sing a new song to the Lord God for all the wonders he has wrought; his right hand and his arm most holy the victory to him have brought. The Lord has shown his great salvation, to Israel his love made known; he has revealed to every nation his truth in righteousness alone.

Psalm 98
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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 105

“As With Gladness Men of Old”
(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

Here is the message we have heard from Jesus and announce to you. God is light. There is no darkness in him at all. Suppose we say that we share life with God but still walk in the darkness. Then we are lying. We are not living out the truth.

But suppose we walk in the light, just as he is in the light. Then we share life with one another. And the blood of Jesus, his Son, makes us pure from all sin.

NIrV

Let us walk in the light of Jesus.

The Prayer of Confession:

Dear Jesus, you love us so much that you died for us. Often we forget your grace and try to earn your love. Forgive us when we sin against you and when we don't love other people well. Fill us up with joy for your forgiveness and help us to live thankful lives. We pray in your strong name. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Lift Up Your Hearts 709:2
“Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus did not come to the world to condemn it; He came to save us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts: 334:1-3
“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

Installation of Deaconesses (11:00)

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 334:4-5
“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

The Children's Message

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?
Congregation: The Lord be with you.
Children: And also with you.
(Children, 4-2nd grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offertory:

“Song of Simeon” (Now May Your Servant, Lord)

Jan Zwart, John DeKorne

The Offering

Today's offering is for Inner City Christian Federation and the LaGrave General Fund. Please use an envelope from the pew to designate your gift. All undesignated monies will go to the General Fund.
(Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

*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: Luke 2:22-35 (pg. 1594)

The Anthem:

“Simeon” (8:40) Peter Cornelius
The Infant after eight days unto Jerusalem was taken by his parents from the stall in Bethlehem. Then came an aged father, the pious Simeon, and in the sacred temple he held the infant Son, and now his face illumined with ray of wondrous love, he speaks as though a prophet praising his God above: “Now lettest thou thy servant peacefully, Lord, depart, for he has seen the Savior, and happy is his heart; thus to the world thou'st sent him that he a heathen race, redeeming with his glory, may brighten with his grace!” With wond'ring looks they heard it, the parents of the Boy, and then they bore him thither, o'ercome with silent joy.

“Nunc Dimittis” (11:00) Charles Villiers Stanford
Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

Luke 2:29-32

The Sermon: **“THE TRADITIONAL JESUS”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 111:1, 3-6
“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

*The Benediction

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

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

David Cherwien

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Jessica Klooster – vocalist (8:40)

Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director (11:00)

Olivia Huizenga and Sher Engbers – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Julie and Dan Molenbeek – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Jessica Klooster is a graduate of Calvin College where she sang in the Capella. She remains active as a soloist and is a member of First Reformed Church in Holland. May God bless your ministry of music to us this morning, Jessica, and thank you for sharing your musical gifts in worship.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.

Music at LaGrave (11:00)

The traditional Anglican service of Evensong includes two canticles, the Magnificat (Mary's song) and the Nunc dimittis (Simeon's song) which follow the two Biblical lessons, one from the Old Testament and one from the New. Both of these musical pieces conclude with the doxological text of the Gloria Patri. On Christmas Eve, the Chancel Choir sang English composer Charles Villiers Stanford's Magnificat setting; this morning they offer the same composer's Song of Simeon.

The January special offering is for Inner City Christian Federation which provides housing opportunities and services that encourage family responsibility and independence, thereby helping to build stable communities. ICCF assists more than 2,200 low-to-moderate income families each year and continues to address the issues of affordable housing in Grand Rapids.

Tonight Rev. Jonker will preach on Matthew 2:1-12, his sermon is entitled: “The True Light that Gives Light to Everyone.”