

September 23, 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:

“O Man, Bewail Your Grievous Sin”

J. S. Bach

“God, Be Merciful to Me”

Seth Bingham

“O Christ, the Lamb of God”

Paul Manz

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“For the Glories of God’s Grace”

For the glories of God’s grace let us bring unceasing praise. From our fallen, sinful ways, we are reconciled to God.

Christ the Lord, unstained and pure, took our sin, made us secure, named us his ambassadors – we are reconciled to God.

Words” based on 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; verse Marie J. Post, 1985. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission under OneLicense.net #707908

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 847

“This Holy Covenant Was Made”

(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Children

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: Romans 7:21-25

The Sung Prayer of Confession:

“Turn Thy Face from My Sins” (11:00)

Thomas Attwood

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not the Holy Spirit from me.

Psalms 51:9, 10, 11

The Prayer of Confession:

Lord Jesus, sometimes we wonder why we inherited sin in the first place. Our fallenness warps our hearts, and shackled to sin, we can’t follow you. Holy Spirit, because of Jesus, make plain the rough places in our hearts. Set us free for a life that is truly life.

concluded with:

Lift Up Your Hearts 864:1,4 “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

The Assurance of Pardon:

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set us free from the law of sin and death.**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 679:1,3

“For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free”

The Commissioning of Rev. Emily VandenHeuvel

Middle School Ministries Coordinator

The Commissioning of Church School Leaders

At this time, all those involved in our children and youth ministries are asked to stand. This includes Nurseries, Church Time, Children’s Worship, JUMP, GEMS, Cub Scouts, Kids Hope USA, Middle School Ministry, Church School, Boy Scouts, Junior Choir, Youth Ensemble, CREW, SERVE, and College Ministry and dinners.

The Blessing:

Leader: Having experienced God’s grace and having heard his call, we commit ourselves today to the work of faith formation in the lives of our children. Bless these teachers, leaders, helpers and workers who will take the lead in fulfilling our covenant promises. Bless them as they prepare lessons, lead classes and guide our youth. Bless them with patience, wisdom, discernment, kindness and joy.

Teachers & Workers:

With the Holy Spirit’s help, we promise to do everything we can to care for and nurture the youth

God places in our care. We promise to love them, to listen to them, to pray for them, to be examples for them. We promise to point them to Jesus.

At this time the rest of the congregation is asked to stand.

Leader: Bless the LaGrave congregation as they care for the next generation. Bless them with a deep curiosity about these young lives. Bless them with an unquenchable urge to pray for our children. May their love surround our children and young people every step of the way.

People: We promise to support the activities and youth ministries of this congregation through our prayers, through our encouragement of their leaders, through our interest in their programs, and through our example of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 314:1,3

“Tell Your Children”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children’s Message

(Children, 4s, K – 2nd grade, may leave for Children’s Worship.)

The Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Notes are also prayer request cards that can be dropped into the box at the Welcome Center.

The Anthem: “Jesu, Lover of My Soul” (8:40)

Philip W. J. Stopford

Jesu, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high; hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life be past; safe into the have guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee; leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring; cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick and lead the blind. Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness. False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace on thee is found, grace to cover all my sin. Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure

within. Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee. Spring thou up within my heart. Rise to all eternity. Amen.

The Offertory:

“There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood” Eric Thiman

The Offering:

Today's Offering is for the LaGrave General Fund and the Pregnancy Resource Center. 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: Exodus 32:1-14 (pg. 136)

The Sermon: **“FREEDOM FROM: STIFF NECKS
AND LONG OBEDIENCE”**

The Prayer after the Sermon

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 695:1,3,4

“And Can It Be”

God Sends Us into His World

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “And Can It Be”

Anna Laura Page

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert– director (8:40)

Vocal Quartet, Merle Mustert – director (11:00)

Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano, Jess Hollenbach – alto

Bill VanEe – tenor, Peter Redder – bass

Ken and Mary Afman – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Christine Hoekzema and Everett Smith – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

The flowers on the chancel are given by **Tony and Annie Tang (Aiden, Owen, Ethan)** in loving memory of Annie's brother, William (Billy) Liszewski who passed away on September 21, 2002.

Music at LaGrave (8:40): English-born Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977) is fast becoming a leading composer of sacred choral music. He is currently director of music at Christ Church in Bronxville, New York. Among his many beautiful choral anthems is a 2015 setting of Charles Wesley's 1740 hymn text *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*. Stopford's gift of composing flowing, lyrical melodic lines and rich harmony is apparent in each verse. Note also the text-painting used near the conclusion of the anthem on the word “rise” as the voices rise in pitch, after which a quiet and peaceful “Amen” brings the anthem to a close.

The September special offering is for the Pregnancy Resource Center which provides education, counseling and services at no cost to the recipients. Through their programs, the Pregnancy Resource Center lives out their mission “to show the truth that all people matter to God.”

This evening, Rev. Kathy Smith, Professor of Church Polity at Calvin Theological Seminary will be preaching on Philippians 4:4-7. Her sermon is titled “God's Antidote to Our Worry.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org