

October 14, 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:

“Nocturne”

Gabriel Fauré

“There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

Eric Thiman, Philip Moore

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies” (8:40) William Billings
From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise, let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land by every tongue.

“It Is a Thing Most Wonderful” from *St. John Passion* (11:00)
Bob Chilcott

It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God's own Son should come from heaven and die to save a child like me.

It is most wonderful to know his love for me so free and sure; but 'tis more wonderful to see my love for him so faint and poor.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 109

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

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

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: Ephesians 6:1-4 (pg. 1820)

The Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father,

you arrange our families with wisdom beyond our own – calling parents to instruct children with faithfulness and love; calling children of all ages to honor parents, and children who are still growing to obey them.

We lament the ways family relationships have gone wrong.

When we as parents misuse our authority to train your children, forgive us.

When we as children disregard our parents, forgive us.

Bring righteousness and peace to our families; make our relationships microcosms of your grace.

In Christ's name, amen.

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:

“In Our Households, Heavenly Father”

1. In our households, heavenly Father, bless the bonds that make us one. May our love reflect your loving, may your will be always done. Send your Spirit to inspire us and to teach your discipline. May our acts and conversations show your peace and joy within.

2. And in single life or married, make us open to your call to encourage, comfort others, and show love to one and all. Help us make our homes a haven, quick with hospitality. Move us, Lord, to serve each other with true love and charity.

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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:

“It Is a Thing Most Wonderful” from *St. John Passion* (8:40)
Bob Chilcott

It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God's own Son should come from heaven and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true; he chose a poor and humble lot, and wept and toiled and mourned and died, for love of those who loved him not.

It is most wonderful to know his love for me so free and sure; but 'tis more wonderful to see my love for him so faint and poor.

“Draw Near, All Ye People” from *Elijah* (11:00)

Felix Mendelssohn

Draw near, all ye people, come to me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; this day let it be known that thou art God, and I am thy servant! Lord God of Abraham! O shew to all this people that I have done these things according to thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel; O hear me and answer me; and shew this people that thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned, Lord. 1 Kings 18:30, 36,37

The Offertory:

“What Wondrous Love Is This” (8:40)

Dale Wood

“Meditation on Beautiful Savior” (11:00) arr. Cathy Moglebust

The Offering:

Today's offering is for the LaGrave General Fund and Next Step. 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 22:29b-30; 34:19-20 (pg. 121)

The Sermon: **“FREEDOM TO: FIRSTBORN AND FAMILY”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 175
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Man of Sorrows – What a Name”
In my place condemned he stood.

Norman Johnson

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

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

Bells Jubilate, Kurt Stroh – director (11:00)

Jason Coffey – vocalist (11:00)

Tom and Laurie Bosma – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

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

This morning we welcome **Jason Coffey** who sings regionally with Opera Grand Rapids and the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and is also artist in residence at Park Congregational Church. May God bless his ministry of music.

The chancel flowers are given by **Glenda Buteyn** in loving memory of her parents **Henry** and **Sadie Buteyn** and her sister **Kathy Buteyn**.

Music at LaGrave (8:40)

English composer Bob Chilcott’s hymn *It Is a Thing Most Wonderful* is from an extended choral piece titled *St. John*

Passion, patterned after J. S. Bach’s *Passions* in which the story of Christ’s death is shared through an evangelist singing the narration and the choir singing commentary through hymns and chorales. William Walsham How (1823-1897) is the author of the text. Known as the “poor man’s bishop” and “the children’s bishop,” he was known for his work among the destitute in London slums. How wrote some sixty hymns, including many for children.

The October special offering is for Next Step. Next Step is a faith-based nonprofit employing people coming out of prison or rehab and providing them with a community of support that will help them integrate into the workforce, regain hope, and empower themselves to create a better future.

This evening, Rev. Peter Jonker will preach on 2 Corinthians 13:11-13. His sermon is titled “The Holy Kiss.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org