

October 7, 2018

World Communion Sunday

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:

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Leo Sowerby

"As Moses Raised the Serpent Up"

Emma Lou Diemer

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

"The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear"

The ends of all the earth shall hear and turn unto the Lord in fear; all kindreds of the earth shall own and worship him as God alone.

All earth to him her homage brings, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 264:1,4,5,6

"Lift High the Cross"

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

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Profess our Faith

The Call to Confession: Luke 10:25-29; 33-37 (pg. 1615)

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,

We confess that our actions reveal the sin of our heart.

Too often we are quick to walk in step with the wicked

or stand around with sinners

or sit in the company of mockers.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sin.

Renew our hearts and give us courage to obey,

so that we will be quick to turn toward the hurting,

or bend down to listen to the confused,

or kneel in service to the poor.

Have mercy on us,

so that we will show mercy to the stranger.

In your name, Lord, we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 145:13-14 (pg. 980)

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 299:1,2,4

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Moment

The Pastoral Prayer

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

The Anthem:

"For the Healing of the Nations"

arr. Charles Thatcher

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords. To a life of love and action, help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom, from despair your world release; that redeemed from war and hatred, we may come and go in peace. Show us how, through care and goodness, fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned; pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind: that by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: John 3:11-21 (pg. 1650)

The Sermon: **"CHRIST LIFTED UP"**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 674:1,4

"As Moses Raised the Serpent Up"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (See insert)

(As we receive the elements, please meditate as the choir sings)

The Communion Anthems:

"Ubi caritas"

Maurice Duruflé

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucun demur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

(Translation): Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whatever your race may be! Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

The Offering and Thank-Offering

Today's offering is for the LaGrave General Fund, the Benevolence Fund, and Next Step. Please use an envelope from the pew to designate your gift. All undesignated monies will go to the General Fund.

As we give for these causes, we will sing the closing hymn and stand when signaled.

(Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

The Closing Hymn: Lift Up your Hearts 825
“Beneath the Cross”

God Sends Us into His World

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Prelude in G Major”

J. S. Bach

Dr. Neal Plantinga, Jr. – guest minister
Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – liturgist
Rev. Peter Jonker – communion liturgist (8:40)
Rev. Kristy Manion – communion liturgist (11:00)
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Choral Ensemble (8:40)
Kathryn Beeksvoot, Carmen Kruyf – soprano
Jess Hollenbach – alto
Zack Kruyf, Jason Reiffer – tenor
Karel deWaal Malefyt, Peter Redder – bass
Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director (11:00)
Nate and Jake Versluis – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Marlene Padding and Merv Kamper – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

This morning we welcome **Dr. Neal Plantinga, Jr.** to our worship. **Dr. Plantinga, Jr.** is Senior Research Fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and president emeritus of Calvin Theological Seminary.

The flowers on the chancel are given in memory of **Jeanene Stevens** who entered heaven six years ago. She is lovingly remembered by her husband **Ron Stevens**.

Music at LaGrave

Netherlands-born clergyman and hymn text writer Fred Kaan (1929-2009) began writing hymn text on themes of justice and peace in the mid-1960s. Perhaps Kaan’s poignant texts are a response to his experience of living through the Nazi occupation, having witnessed three grandparents die of starvation, and his own parents’ deep involvement in the resistance movement. On this World-wide communion Sunday, Kaan’s hymn *For the Healing of the Nations* is a prayer for justice and love to find a place in the hearts of all

people. The final stanza of this hymn reminds us that we are made in God’s likeness.

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 Matthew 27:32-50. His sermon is titled “He descended into Hell.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org