

March 3, 2019

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: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Clay Christiansen
"Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty."
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" John R. Watkinson
"He is Alpha and Omega – he the source, the ending he."

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:
"The Call" (8:40) K. Lee Scott
Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart; such a joy as none can move; such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

"All Creatures of Our God and King" (11:00)
All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice with us and sing: alleluia! O burning sun with golden beam, and shining moon with silver gleam, O praise him, alleluia!

We Respond with Praise

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 538
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
(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

The Call to Confession:

Jesus says, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink or what you will wear...Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them." Matthew 6:25-26

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God. My times are in your hands;" Psalm 31:14,15a

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. Psalm 133:3

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

God of all creation, who is before time and beyond space, we acknowledge before you our human limits. You are great and we are small. Forgive us when we follow worldly powers and stray from the good path you've laid out for us. Help us to trust in Jesus, whose grace is sufficient for us and whose power is made perfect in our weakness. We pray in his strong name. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Revelation 1:17-18 (pg. 1913)

*The Hymn of Commitment: ***Worship & Rejoice 476:1,3,4***
"I Need Thee Every Hour"
Sing stanza 3 a capella

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message
(Children, 4-2nd grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" (8:40) arr. Craig Courtney
Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he; of the things that

are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

"At the Name of Jesus" (11:00) Ralph Vaughan Williams
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of glory now; 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight, all the angel faces, all the hosts of light, thrones and dominations, stars upon their way, all the heavenly orders in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name from the lips of sinners unto whom he came. Faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant with its human light, through all ranks of creatures to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

Name him, Christians, name him with love as strong as death, but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath; he is God the Savior, he is Christ the Lord, ever to be worshipped, trusted, and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true; crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour; let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory, o'er the earth to reign. For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

The Offertory: "Holy, Holy, Holy"
Healey Willan, Robert Buckley Farlee
"Who wert and art and evermore shall be."

The Offering:

Today's offering is for the LaGrave General Fund and God's Kitchen. 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 in His Word

The Scripture: Revelation 1:1-8 (pg. 1912)

The Sermon: **“THE I AMS OF JESUS: THE ALPHA AND OMEGA”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 351

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*The Benediction

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

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Toccata on *Love Divine, All Loves*

Excelling”

J. Christopher Pardini

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Jessica Klooster – vocalist (8:40)

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

Julie and Natalie Molenbeek – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Cyndi Post – 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.

Music at LaGrave (11:00): Caroline Noel (1817-1877), invalid daughter of an Anglican clergyman and hymn writer, wrote poetry to encourage others who were ill or incapacitated.

She wrote *At the Name of Jesus* originally as an 8-stanza poem based on the confession of faith that Paul quotes in Philippians 2:6-11, which may have been an early Christian hymn. English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote the stately, minor-key tune for Noel's text in 1927. The anthem combines unison singing, four-part harmony, a descant, and powerful organ accompaniment in the climactic final stanza.

The designated offering for the month of **March** is for God's Kitchen. God's Kitchen served over 175,000 meals last year to hungry people throughout West Michigan. A noontime hot meal is served daily at God's Kitchen in the Heartside Neighborhood of Grand Rapids. Nourishment and meal-time respite are available to anyone who visits the dining room.

Tonight guest minister **Dr. Russ Palsrok** will preach on Ecclesiastes 12:8-14. His sermon is entitled, “Wisdom for Life's Path.” Dr. Palsrok is a member of LaGrave, the former director of World Missions, and an emeritus CRC minister.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.