

February 9, 2020

Welcome to worship at LaGrave. Because our worship proceeds without announcements, please carefully follow the order of worship printed below. An asterick (*) denotes standing for those who are able. We are glad that you are here. Let us worship God together.

EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

Please prepare your heart and mind for worship with a time of prayer and meditation.

The Prelude:

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” Raymond H. Haan
“Deep River” Raymond H. Haan
“Three Settings of *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*”
Robert J. Hughes, Lew Charles, Albin C. Whitworth

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Out of Silence Music Rises” Larry Visser
Out of silence music rises; melody evolves like breath; light and shadow dance together; life keeps dawning out of death. Unexpected beauty beckons and its new-found charms entice; promise of unbounded splendor, fleeting taste of paradise.

So the soul is caught and carried by allure not fully known, by a glint of dappled radiance, by a half-heard overtone. Past what sense can sort or order, farther down than thoughts reveal, wells a deep, unfathomed longing for the Source of this appeal.

For the God who lavished beauty on a newborn universe still bestows it to engage us; to invite but not coerce. All that wakes our dormant wonder, every surge of sound and sight, gives us grace to seek the holy in its terror and delight.

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*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 353

“Rejoice, O Pure in Heart”

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

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

SONGS OF LONGING

The Reading: Psalm 123 (pg. 966)

The Anthem:

“I Was Glad” C. Hubert H. Parry

*I was glad when they said unto me,
we will go into the house of the Lord.*

*Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is builded as a city, that is at unity in itself.*

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that
love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness
within thy palaces.* Psalm 122:1-3, 6,7

The Confession:

Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humans can do, for we believe that one day every challenge to God’s rule will be crushed. His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Our World Belongs to God, par. 55 & 56

The Anthem:

“Beyond the River” Sean Ivory
Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain, free to all, a healing stream flows from Calvary’s mountain.

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.*

*In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed
soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of
glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his
Spirit, washed in his blood.*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me.*

*Near the cross I’ll watch and wait hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.*

*Praising my Savior all the day long . . . till my ransomed soul
shall find rest beyond the river.* Words: Fanny Crosby

The Prayer of Longing

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 889:1,3,7
“Lord, My Petition Heed”

SONGS OF REST

The Confession:

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. **That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. Heidelberg Catechism Q. & A. 1

The Anthem:

“With a Voice of Singing” Kenneth Jennings
With a voice of singing declare ye, and tell this: utter it even to the end of the earth. Hallelujah!

*The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob. Hallelujah!
Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands. Sing forth the honor of his name; make his praise glorious.*

Glory be 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.

With a voice of singing declare ye, and tell this: utter it even to the end of the earth. Hallelujah!

*The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob. Hallelujah!
Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands. Sing forth the honor of his name; make his praise glorious.*

Isaiah 48:20b; Psalm 66:1-2
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The Bible Reading: Psalm 131 (pg. 969)

The Sermon: **“SONGS OF LONGING AND SONGS OF REST”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

The Response: “The Deer’s Cry”

Arvo Pärt

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in me, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me,
Christ with me.*

Words from the Lorica of St. Patrick

The Prayer of Rest and Thanks

The Hymn of Rest: Lift Up Your Hearts 665:1,2

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

The Offertory Anthem:

“Cover Me with the Night”

Andrea Ramsey

*Come, Lord! Come, Lord and cover me with the night.
Spread your grace over us, when the night is cold and
dark. Your promises are more than the stars in the sky.
Your mercy is deeper than the night. Come, Lord! Come
Lord and cover me with the night. Lord, we wait for you.
We wait, we wait. Come, Lord.*

Traditional prayer from Ghana

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The Offering:

*Today’s offering is for The Bridge of Arbor Circle 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 Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 665:3

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

Frank Stoldt

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Dr. Elizabeth West – organist
Calvin Alumni Choir, Sean Ivory – director
Dr. Kenneth Bos – accompanist

We welcome the **Calvin Alumni Choir** to worship this evening. The choir, made up of Calvin alumni of various ages, has been singing in church worship services, choral conventions, annual concerts, and tours for the past four decades, and several LaGrave members have been active in this choir during that period. Currently, Kim DeStigter, Justin Triemstra, and Jennifer Schroder sing in the Alumni Choir. Dr. Pearl Shangkuan was the most recent director, and Sean Ivory is the current conductor, with long-time accompanist Dr. Kenneth Bos.

The flowers on the chancel today are in loving memory of **Jack Tyler Boerema and Grandpa Jack Boerema**; remembered by **Betty Boerema, Norm & Terri (Riley, Klaudia, and Martyna) Boerema**, and **John & Glenie (Tatiana, Anna) Hamersma**.

The February special offering is for The Bridge of Arbor Circle (located in Grand Rapids), which offers emergency shelter for youths and additional counseling the youths and their families.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.