

November 22, 2020

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 10:00 AM

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Johann Sebastian Bach, Jacobus Kloppers

“Let All Things Now Living”

Michael Bedford

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Come, You Thankful People”

Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied; come, with all his people come, raise the song of harvest home.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home; gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin there, forever purified, in your presence to abide; come, with all your angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 507:1,3

“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach our God

The Call to Confession: Philippians 4:4-9

The Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we confess we do not always understand your ways. We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns, when our carefully laid plans and dreams evaporate. We confess we're quick to give up when things get difficult. Forgive us. Grant us patience to wait and strength to carry on. Move us to cling to Jesus when the road ahead is uncertain and to trust in your eternal goodness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Sung Response: (*sung by the vocalist*)

“Kyrie Eleison”

Kyrie eleison.

Translation: Lord, have mercy.

The Assurance of Pardon: Jeremiah 31:33-34

The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 353:1-3

“Rejoice, O Pure in Heart”

We Celebrate God's Faithfulness

The Table Fellowship: Isabella Redder and Penelope Redder
Daughters of Peter and Emily Redder

*The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;**

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.

**He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.**

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.**

His kingdom will never end.

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.**

**He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified.**

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

Our Faith, pg. 16

*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.**

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“Be Thou My Vision”

Craig Courtney

*Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me,
save that thou art; thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise; thou mine
inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my
heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

The Pastoral Prayer (concluded with the Lord's Prayer)

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Matthew 16:24-28 (pg. 1528)

The Sermon: **“PERPLEXING BIBLE TEXTS: WHY IS JESUS TAKING SO LONG?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 934
“God of Mercy, God of Grace”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:
“Come, You Thankful People, Come” Vernon Griffiths
Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home.

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Chase Scholtens, Chad Scholtens – vocalists

Music at LaGrave

The hymn *Be Thou My Vision* originated in 8th century Ireland. While anonymous, the text can possibly be attributed to Columba of Donegal, an important figure who contributed to the missionary effort of the Irish church in that period. The Celtic style of the ancient Irish melody arranged by Craig Courtney is felt through a drone-like bass and a flattened seventh scale degree in the piano accompaniment, creating a modal character to the arrangement. While the first two verses speak of Christ as our vision and treasure, the final verse points us to the victory of reaching heaven’s shore.

The flowers today are sponsored by the **LaGrave Planned Giving Committee** in gratitude to those who have remembered LaGrave CRC in estate and memorial gifts.

The November special offering is for World Renew, a CRC-sponsored organization providing domestic/international disaster response, community development in 30 countries, and partnering with over 130 churches to address illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, child mortality, HIV/Aids and injustice.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.