

January 3, 2021

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:

“Benedictus (Blessing)”

Max Reger

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

David Cherwien

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Larry Visser

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Day by Day”

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 105:1,3,4

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Exodus 20:1-17

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, you are worthy of praise. In all we are and in all we do, your commands are life for us. Forgive us when we see them as limits and our obedience runs thin. Help us run in the paths of your commands, for you have set our hearts free. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer concluded with:

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart (*in my heart,*) in my heart, (*in my heart,*)
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

W&R 457:3

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Galatians 4:4-5

The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 334:1,2,4

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

*The Confession of Faith

Q. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Heidelberg Catechism: Q. & A. #21

*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

(Children, 4s, K – 2nd grade, may come forward.)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: “Blest Are They”

David Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!
(Refrain)

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.
(Refrain)

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Matthew 4:23-5:12

The Sermon: **“GOING DEEPER: BLEST ARE YOU”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 859:1,2,4
“Be Thou My Vision”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “Lead On, O King Eternal”

Charles Callahan

*Offering plates are located at the Sanctuary exits.
Thank you for your continued support of our ministries.*

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Becky Rhoda – vocalist

Ellen Dekker and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Rachel Rynbrandt and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

While there are many contemporary paraphrases of the Beatitudes, none is as well-known as David Haas's (b. 1957) version. Haas is both text writer and music composer for his 1985 setting, *Blest Are They*, which has found its way into many hymnals over the past decades and is particularly loved in the Catholic tradition. The jubilant refrain is accentuated by a rising interval of a fourth on the word "Rejoice," the highest pitch in the entire hymn. A prayer written by Rev. Dr. Patrick D. Shelley states: "You have made us in such a way that we are blessed and able to bless others. Empower us to be a blessing in this world, that our souls and spirits might grow and find unity of purpose with your truth, until that day when we rejoice and are glad with you in your eternal kingdom."

The January special offering is for ICCF (Inner City Christian Federation) which provides housing opportunities, home ownership counseling, home repairs and maintenance for families who otherwise cannot afford a home.

The Season from Christmas to Lent: From Christmas until the beginning of Lent is the liturgical season of Epiphany. The colors of gold and white symbolize this time of joy and thanksgiving. We celebrate Jesus Christ as the manifestation of God's light in our dark and sin-filled world. It is a time to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ and reflect his light in our lives.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.