

April 11, 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:

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Eric H. Thiman
“Ubi Caritas” (Where Charity and Love Prevail) Raymond H. Haan
“The Gift of Love” Raymond H. Haan

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“How Great Is the Love of the Father”
How great is the love of the Father, the love he has shown to us—so great that he calls us his children, and children of God we are!

The world without God does not know us because it did not know Christ. Lord, help us to be pure and spotless, for children of God we are.

1 John 3:1-3
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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 187

“Thine Is the Glory”

(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: John 17:20-23 - followed by singing
Lift Up Your Hearts 257:1,2 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

- 1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**
- 2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

The Prayer of Confession:

Lord and Savior, what great love you have lavished on us, that we are called children of God! Forgive us when we let our wells of love run dry, forgetting that you are the source and the strength of that love. Help us live as resurrection people, offering our bodies as living sacrifices. Make us people through whom your living water flows. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer concluded by singing

- 6. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign though all eternity.**

LUYH 257:6

The Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 3:16-18

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 727
“Christian Hearts in Love United”

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels” Michael Joncas
Not for tongues of heaven's angels, not for wisdom to discern, not for faith that masters mountains, for this better gift we yearn:

Refrain: May love be ours, Lord; may love be ours. May love be ours, O Lord.

Love is humble, love is gentle, love is tender, true, and kind; love is gracious, ever patient, generous of heart and mind. (Refrain)

Never jealous, never selfish, love does not rejoice in wrong; never boastful or resentful, love believes and suffers long. (Refrain)

Soon will fade the word of wisdom, faith and hope be one day past: when we see our Savior clearly, love it is alone will last. (Refrain)

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The Pastoral Prayer

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: 2 John

The Sermon: **“WALKING IN LOVE”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn:

Lift Up Your Hearts 179:2; 796:2,3; 179:4

“Alleluia! Christ Is Risen / Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat. See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat. Once he died and once was buried; now he lives forevermore—Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—spread his praise from shore to shore! How he loves us, ever loves us, changes never, nevermore! How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own; how for them he's interceding watching o'er them from the throne!

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best! 'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest! Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—'tis a heaven of heavens to me; and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high; alleluia! to the Savior, who has won the victory; alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity; alleluia, alleluia! to the triune Majesty.

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Processional on a Theme of Handel” (Thine Is the Glory)
David Lasky

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

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

David Boes and Rev. Ruth Boven – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Rachel Rynbrandt and Rev. Ruth Boven – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

Timothy Dudley-Smith's paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 has captured the interest of many composers, including Michael Joncas, a composer well known in the Catholic church. Joncas is a master at writing pleasing, lyrical melodies. Both the melody of the verse and the repeated refrain feature ascending pitches, and the phrase “May love be ours, Lord” is sung three times at each appearance of the refrain. Through this music, the words of the apostle Paul describing “the most excellent way” become our own personal prayer.

The April special offering is for Family Promise of Grand Rapids. Family Promise partners with local congregations, individuals, families, foundations and corporations to provide emergency shelter and case management for families with children facing a housing crisis.

This evening, Rev. Jul Medenblik, President of Calvin Theological Seminary, will be our guest minister. He will preach from Luke 24:13-35, and his sermon title is, "Seeing Jesus with Easter Eyes: Through the Promises of God."

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.