

April 25, 2021

GEMS Sunday

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:

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Johann Ludwig Krebs, Max Reger, Paul Manz

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure, friend most sure and true.

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Come to the Savior Now” (8:40)

Come to the Savior now, he gently calls to you; in true repentance bow, let him your heart renew. Christ came that you may know salvation, peace, and love, true joy on earth below, a home in heaven above.

Come to the Savior, all, what e'er your burdens be; hear now his loving call, “Cast all your care on me.” Come, and for every grief, in Jesus you will find a sure and safe relief, a loving friend and kind.

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” (11:00) Brian Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart. Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God; come!

One day every tongue will confess you are God; one day every knee shall bow; still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now, come!

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 2:1,2,4,5

“O Worship the King”

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

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

Jesus Calls Us to Friendship with Him

The GEMS Litany: (8:40) – Bob Grussing

(11:00) – Bella Redder

Leader: In this world, we long for friends who know us and care about us:

GEMS: Friends who love us at all times, friends who stand with us in adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)

Congregation: **But sometimes friends fail us. We're chosen last, laughed at, or cast aside. We feel unseen and alone in a crowd.**

Leader: When friends turn away, we wonder what's wrong with us. But “there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24)

GEMS: Jesus is our Master and our Friend. His Spirit is as close as our breath. He never leaves us.

Congregation: **Like Abraham, who believed God, we believe in Jesus and are called God's friends.** (James 2:23).

Leader: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit call us friends!

ALL: **Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** (1 John 4:11)

*The Hymn of Commitment: Worship & Rejoice 90:1,2,4

“Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!”

The Ministry Moment: (8:40) – Dana Day

(11:00) – Amy VandenBerg, Laura Brandt

The Children's Message: Tina Rooks

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Jesus Is All the World to Me” (8:40) arr. Paul S. Jones

Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all; he is my strength from day to day, without him I would fall.

When I am sad to him I go, no other one can cheer me so; when I am sad he makes my glad, he's my friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, I want no better friend. I trust him now, I trust him when life's fleeting days shall end.

Beautiful life with such a friend; beautiful life that has no end; eternal life, eternal joy, he's my friend.

“Friend of God” (11:00) Michael Gungor and Israel Houghton

Who am I that you are mindful of me, that you hear me when I call? Is it true that you are thinking of me? How you love me, it's amazing. I am a friend of God, he calls me friend. God almighty, Lord of glory, you have called me friend.

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: John 15:9-17

The Sermon: **“FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 897

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Benediction (11:00)

“We Receive Your Blessing”

Grace and Natasha Moes

We receive your blessing, we receive your grace, as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, you heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and praise the Holy Ghost.

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*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Charles Ore

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

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Jim Elzinga – vocalist (8:40)
GEMS Girls Chorus (11:00)
Heidi Brandt – flutist (11:00)
Chad Boorsma and Rev. Kristy Manion – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Marlene Padding and Mia Ackerman – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)
Leah Karr – GEMS Flag (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40)

East Liverpool, Ohio merchant, manufacturer and banker Will L. Thompson (1847-1909) also wrote secular music and later in life found his forte in writing hymns and gospel songs. He is best remembered for *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*. *Jesus Is All the World to Me*, written in 1904, is a typical nineteenth-century gospel hymn that is truly evangelical in spirit and a statement of personal piety. Thompson’s words describe the treasured friendship we have in Jesus.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Jan Heerspink** in memory of her husband **John**.

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 Reverend Jonker will preach from Genesis 12:1-4. His sermon title is, "Israel and the Church.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.