

September 26, 2021

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.

EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

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

The Prelude:

“Adagio espressivo” from <i>Sonata No. 2</i>	Josef Rheinberger
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”	Richard Hudson
“Spirit of the Living God”	Malcolm Archer

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.

The Chiming of the Hour

*The Call to Worship (from Psalm 100)

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

People: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

People: give thanks to him and praise his name.

Leader: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

People: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 19:1,2,4,5

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

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

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Reading: Psalm 133

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 257:1-4,6

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*The Confession:

The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy. Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness.

Restored in Christ’s presence, shaped by his life, this new community lives out the ongoing story of God’s reconciling love, announces the new creation, and works for a world of justice and peace.

We grieve that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and spans all time, place, race, and language, has become a broken communion in a broken world.

When we struggle for the truth of the gospel and for the righteousness God demands, we pray for wisdom and courage.

When our pride or blindness hinders the unity of God’s household, we seek forgiveness.

We marvel that the Lord gathers the broken pieces to do his work and that he blesses us still with joy, new members, and surprising evidences of unity.

We commit ourselves to seeking and expressing the oneness of all who follow Jesus, and we pray for brothers and sisters who suffer for the faith.

Our World Belongs to God, par. 39 & 40

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 927

“God, the Father of Your People”

The Pastoral Prayer:

Prayer will include this response from Psalm 89:8-

Leader: You, Lord, are mighty

People: and your faithfulness surrounds you.

The Sung Prayer of Illumination: Lift Up Your Hearts 749

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all; make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love; humble, caring, selfless, sharing. Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

The Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

The Sermon: **“UNITY IN CHRIST”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 727

“Christian Hearts in Love United”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“God, the Father of Your People”

Wilbur Held

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

Rev. Kathy Smith – guest minister
Chad Boorsma – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist

This evening we welcome **Rev. Kathy Smith** to our worship. Kathy is Senior Associate Director at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and teaches church polity at Calvin Seminary. May God bless the preaching of His Word.

Ordinary Time, the liturgical season of spiritual growth, continues until Advent. The banners and parament now reflect concepts from 2 Peter 3:17-18. We are encouraged to continue our growth in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and experience his grace. As we do, we will be prepared to face life’s challenges and remain firm in our faith.

The flowers in the sanctuary are presented in cherished memory of the lives of **Barbara Elaine Tahl**, our beloved mother and nanna, and **Karl Jon Hoeksema**, our beloved son, brother, and uncle. They are lovingly remembered by **Norma, Marc, Christine Hoeksema and family**. Rev. 21:1-5.

The special offering recipient for September is **Exalta Health Services**: Provides medical, vision, dental, behavioral and spiritual care services with fees based on household income and number of members supported by that income. Unemployment, lack of insurance or other financial factors are not barriers for service.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live