

September 5, 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 AM & 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:

“Allegro,” from *Sonata No. 5* Charles Villiers Stanford
(Go to the World! Go into All the Earth)

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“God, Bless Your Church with Strength!”
God, bless your church with strength! Wherever we may be, build up your servants as we work in common ministry. Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar, through open skies to sing the praise of Christ, whom we adore.

God, bless your church with hope! Despite chaotic days may we in darkness shine, to light a pathway through life's maze. May justice be our aim and kindness ours to share; and let us walk in humbleness, assured our God is there.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 594

“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”

(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: Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 13:8-14

The Prayer of Confession:

Eternal God, we confess that often we have failed to be an obedient church: we have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Ephesians 2:8-10

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 351:1-3

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*The Affirmation of Faith:

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. We are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears.

Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humans can do, for we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule will be crushed. His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule.

We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Our World Belong to God, Par. 6, 55 & 56

*The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 351:4

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Who Will Go for Me?”

Lloyd Larson

Who will go and tell the world that Jesus is the way? Who will brave the dark of night to bring the light of day? All around are captive hearts that yearn to be free. God is calling his children, “Who will go for me?”

I will go and tell the world that Jesus is the way. I will brave the dark of night to bring the light of day. There are those who do not know God's holy Word is true. “I can hear you calling, Lord, and I will go for you.”

Who will share God's love at home or in a foreign land? Who will share his hope with those who need a helping hand? Who will share the joyful news with those who need to know? Jesus died for the world! “My children, who will go?” I will share God's love at home or in a foreign land. I will share his hope with those who need a helping hand. Jesus lives! Proclaim the news so all the world may know. “I can hear you calling. Lord, I can hear you calling, and I will gladly go.”

If by a still, small voice God calls to paths that I do not know, I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in yours, “I'll go where you want me to go. Lord, I can hear you calling, and I will go for you.”

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God Speaks to Us in His Word

The Scripture: Acts 28:17-31

The Sermon: “**A BOOK WITHOUT AN ENDING**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 859
“Be Thou My Vision”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:
“From Greenland’s Icy Mountains” Seth Bingham

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

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Mike Hoogeboom – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Renee Vande Wege – vocalist
Rachel Rynbrandt and Dee DeKryger – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Merv Kamper and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

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.

Music at LaGrave:

The anthem *Who Will Go for Me?* evokes the words from Isaiah 6:8, “Here am I, Lord, send me.” Each verse begins with the question “Who will go” to spread God’s Word to a needy world, and the answer follows, “I will go.” Near the conclusion of the piece, the arranger quotes the 1894 gospel hymn *I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go*, another hymn of mission and service.

The flowers in the chancel today are given by **Chris Walkley** in loving memory of his dad, **Robert Walkley**.

The special offering today, September 5, will be used to assist the relief work of Henry Beets missionaries Juska and Jona Lazarres in Haiti. Please write "Haiti Relief" in the memo line of a check or use the link provided on the church's giving website or email blast. The November special offering for World Renew will be designated for Haiti Relief.

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.

There is no evening service.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.