We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: from the Canons of Dort, 3rd and 4th points of doctrine, articles 1 and 3

The Prayer of Confession:
Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. In the stillness of our hearts, we lay down our sins that are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo . . .

concluded by silence, followed by the singing of the Kyrie

The Assurance of Pardon:
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Thanks be to God.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 687
“The Father, Long Before Creation”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children’s Moment

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: “Creator God” (8:40) Carole Halmekangas
Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I called you by name. Lord, Lord! You created my being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb; my frame was not hidden from you, when I was formed, you were there.

(Refrain) Long before I knew you, you reached down and touched me, loving me before I was born; Elohim Jehovah, Creator God, my Father, praise and blessed be your holy name.

I am fearfully and wonderfully made, my soul knoweth that full well; Lord, your thoughts ever are upon me, and all my days are written in your book. (Refrain)

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and I loved you.

Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139
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The Anthem: “You Know Me” (11:00) Kristina Arakelyan
You have searched me, Lord, and you know me; you know when I sit and when I rise; you have searched me and you know me, you perceive my thoughts from afar. You are familiar with all my ways, Lord, you know me completely; where can I go from your Spirit, where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there; if I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me; even the darkness will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day.

Psalm 139
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The Offertory:
“I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew” David Cherwien

The Offering:
Today’s offering is for Oakdale Neighbors and the LaGrave General Fund. Please use an envelope from the pew to designate your gift. All undesignated monies will go to the General Fund.

(Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

October 23, 2022

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.

October 23, 2022

We are glad that you are here. Let us worship God together.

The Greeting

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Worship & Rejoice

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:
“I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew” Johann Ludwig Krebs
I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me; it was not I that found, O Savior true; no, I was found, was found of thee.

The Chiming of the Hour

The Welcome

Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech © Fred Bock Music Company

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The children’s moment

The Pastoral Prayer

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(Refrain) Long before I knew you, you reached down and touched me, loving me before I was born; Elohim Jehovah, Creator God, my Father, praise and blessed be your holy name.

I am fearfully and wonderfully made, my soul knoweth that full well; Lord, your thoughts ever are upon me, and all my days are written in your book. (Refrain)

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(Annie sign and pass the Welcome Register.)
*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.

God Speaks to Us
The Reading: Canons of Dort, First Main Point of Doctrine, Article 7 (Our Faith pg. 120)
The Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-14 (pg.1814)
The Sermon: “THE CANONS OF DORT: UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace
*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 690
“I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace”

*The Benediction

*The Choral Amen (8:40)
*The Organ Amen (11:00)
*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells
*The Postlude:
“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

Gordon Young, Austin Lovelace
Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Erin Alley – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)
Emily Smith – vocalist (11:00)
Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Emily VandenHeuvel and Robert Otte – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Congregational Church. We welcome Emily to worship this morning.

Music at LaGrave (8:40): Both the text and music of Carole Halmekangas’ anthem Creator God have Hebraic connotations. “Elohim” is the Hebrew name for God or Jehovah. A minor key, harmonic progressions, and a sequential refrain melodic line evoke the sound of Hebrew music. Based on texts from Jeremiah 1:5 and Psalm 139, the anthem reminds us that God knew and chose us before our birth, calling us each by name.

The flowers on the chancel recognize the wonderful hearts and talents of LaGrave’s ministry team. Thank you for ongoing faithful service that blesses our congregation in countless ways.
The special offering for October is for Oakdale Neighbors, a neighborhood development organization providing youth mentoring and advocacy, tax preparation, financial classes and neighborhood business development assistance.

This evening, Chad Boorsma will preach on Psalm 51. His sermon is entitled “A Prayer for Extravagance”.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live

Vocalist Emily Smith is a teacher at Grand Rapids Community College, owner of West Michigan Music Therapy, and a professional singer in the choir at Mayflower