

## January 22, 2023

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:

Variations on "Will You Come and Follow Me?" Denis Bédard

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" (8:40)

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart, who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place: so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.*

The Handbell Introit

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" (11:00)

arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart, who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

\*The Processional Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 9***

"Come, Let Us Praise the Lord"

\*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

## We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Matthew 11:28-30

*concluded by singing*

**Come to the Savior now, he offers all to you, and on his merits you can plead for life anew. No vain excuses frame, respond to Christ today! None who to Jesus came were ever sent away.**

Lift Up Your Hearts 613:3

The Prayer of Confession:

**We confess, Father, that even though we say we will follow; we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love half-heartedly and with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to you as the source of our healing and strength. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, fill us with your Spirit and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.**

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Isaiah 55:6-7

\*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 352

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

## We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" (8:40) C. Hubert H. Parry

*How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call: To live according to your word and daily learn, freshed, restored, that you are Lord of all, and will not let us fall.*

*We marvel how your saints become in hindrances more sure; whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name, and by our thoughts obscure your power to cleanse and cure.*

*But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear; if worldly pressures fray the mind, and love itself cannot unwind its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.*

*In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, in old routines and ventures new, may we not cease to look to you, the cross you hung upon— all you endeavored done.*

Words: Fred Pratt Green

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The Handbell Anthem:

"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling" (11:00)

arr. Kevin McChesney

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home, you who are weary come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

The Offering

The Offertory:

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Emma Lou Diemer

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servants shall be too.

\*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Matthew 8:18-27 (p.1512)

The Sermon: **"ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS IN  
MATTHEW: THE EAGER VOLUNTEER"**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

## We Go in His Peace

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 440

"He Leadeth Me"

\*The Benediction

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

\*The Choral Amen (8:40)

\*The Organ Amen (11:00)

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

"Offertory"

Andrew Carter

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister  
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist  
Dr. Larry Visser – organist  
Chancel Choir, Glenda Buteyn – assistant director (8:40)  
Bells Jubilate, Kurt Stroh – guest director (11:00)  
Rene Baatenburg and Chad Boorsma – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)  
Merv Kamper and Rachel Rynbrandt – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

**Epiphany is the liturgical season from Christmastide to Lent.** During this time we focus on Jesus Christ, the Savior, who is the manifestation of God’s light in our dark and sin-filled world. As we grow in our knowledge of God’s redemptive acts through Jesus Christ, we are called to respond by bringing the light of the gospel to our neighborhoods and the world. These concepts are reflected in the symbol of the Trinity and the gold and white colors used in the banners and paraments.

We welcome former handbell director **Kurt Stroh** (11:00) who is guest directing for Dr. Jim Borst who is out of town attending a funeral.

**Music at LaGrave: (11:00)**

Known as “the millionaire songwriter,” Will Thompson (1847-1909) was also known as the bard of Ohio. He travelled to New York City to sell several of his secular songs and made millions. Later, he began writing sacred hymns, both text and music, selling millions of hymnals and gospel quartet books. He loaded an upright piano on a two-horse wagon and shared these songs in countless small Ohio towns. *Softly and Tenderly* was written around age 33. Kevin McChesney’s handbell arrangement of this hymn features the melody played not only by the upper handbells, but also, at times, by the middle and lower handbells.

**The January special offering** is for Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF) which provides housing opportunities, home ownership counseling, home repairs and maintenance for families who otherwise cannot afford a home.

This evening, candidate **Tricia Bosma** will preach. Tricia is a Calvin Seminary graduate and a LaGrave member who works as a chaplain.

Livestreaming worship is available at [lagrave.org/live](http://lagrave.org/live)