

February 19, 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:

"O Little One Sweet"

Jan Mulder

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Robert J. Powell

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my works be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

"Precious Jewels"

Dale Wood

The Chiming of the Hour

The Handbell Introit

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" (8:40)

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart, free it from sin, through all its pulses move. Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.

The Choral Introit

"Humble Praises, Holy Jesus" (11:00)

Humble praises, holy Jesus, children's voices raise in song. As our shepherd, O protect us; we as lambs to you belong.

Alleluia, alleluia, joyful praises now we sing. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia to our King.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 246:1-4

"God Is Here"

*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.**

LUYH 613:3

The Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we confess we have gone astray and need a shepherd. Shepherd us, Lord. We confess we often love You half-heartedly. Make us whole, Lord. We confess we trivialize Your sacrifice. Give us perspective, Lord. We confess we find most of our strength in ourselves. Be our strength, Lord. We confess little zeal for Your kingdom. Give us passion, Lord. We confess we have done many things wrong. Forgive us, Lord. We confess we often do not love You well. Love us, Lord. Help us to have faith like a little child. We ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ, who exchanges our confession for abundant life in Him. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Heidelberg Catechism Answer 66

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 946:1-2

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

We Celebrate God's Covenant Promises

The Meaning of Baptism (11:00)

The Vows (11:00)

The Baptism:

Elizabeth Jane Faber (11:00)

daughter of Aaron and Kate Faber
Prayer Partner: Marlene Padding

The Song of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 709 (11:00)

"Jesus Loves Me"

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message (8:40)

The Pastoral Prayer

concluded by singing:

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

LYUH 896

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The Handbell Anthem:

"Kum ba Yah" (Come by Here) (8:40)

arr. John F. Wilson

The Choral Anthem:

"Hymn for Children" (11:00)

Marianne Forman

Refrain:

Let the little children come to me, and forbid them not. Let the little children come to me for such is the kingdom of heaven.

Behold, what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we are called children of God! (Refrain)

Matthew 19:14

1 John 3:1

The Offering

The Offertory:

"Jesus Loves Me"

Joshua Evanovich

*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 Prayer for Illumination: (based on Psalm 119:17-24)

Lord, open our eyes

that we may see marvelous things in your book.

Lord, open our hearts

that your truth would be our delight.

Lord, open our minds

that we would receive your counsel as we meditate on your Word.

Guide us by your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15 (p.1532)

The Sermon: **“ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS IN
MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLES &
CHILDREN”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 928
“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:
“Postlude in E-flat”

Louis Lefébure-Wély

Chad Boorsma – minister
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Ruth Bylsma – flutist
Bells Jubilate, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)
Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director (11:00)
Avery and Nolan Walcott – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Celine and Olivia Alcumbrack – 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.

Music at LaGrave (11:00) Marianne Forman’s anthem *Hymn for Children* combines two complimentary texts from

Matthew 19:14 and 1 John 3:1. Accompanied by flute, the anthem quotes the hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father* at the outset and in the final measures of the piece. Forman’s melody is simple and childlike and gently soars over a flowing piano accompaniment.

The flowers on the chancel today are given in loving memory of our son **Jack Boerema** and parents **Jack & Betty Boerema**. We miss you every day and love you very much.
Norman and Terri Boerema.

The February special offering is for Wedgwood Christian Services which provides youth services, residential treatment, foster care, independent living, in-home intervention, outpatient counseling and prevention – “helping troubled kids discover lives filled with meaning and purpose.”

This evening, Rev Laura Smit will preach on Isaiah 12. Her sermon is entitled, “The Wells of Salvation.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live