

April 30, 2023

GEMS Sunday

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:

“Partita on *Trust and Obey*”

Larry Visser

- I Trumpet Tune
- II Lullaby
- III Duo
- IV Prayer
- V Trio
- VI Adagio

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“What Does the Lord Require of You” (8:40)

Jim Strathedee

What does the Lord require of you? Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8. Words: Jim Strathedee © 1986 Desert Flower Music. Used with permission under CCLI #461624

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” (11:00)

Paul Baloche

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you, I want to see you. To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory. Pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 755

“Speak, O Lord”

*The Greeting – concluded by the minister saying...

“Christ is risen!”

*The People's Response: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Welcome

The Ministry Moment – Mady Kuiper and Penny Redder

8:40 – Jen Day

11:00 – Natalie Oosterhouse, Avery Verploegh, Pat Trathen

We Humbly Approach God

The Responsive Call to Confession:

Leader: For fifty years, girls and women from generation to generation have been uniting their voices to recite Micah 6:8 in their GEMS Clubs. Whether their club is in Canada, the US, Uganda, or 13 other countries, it sounds like this: LaGrave GEMS and GEMS leaders, what does the Lord require of us?

Girls: “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God,” Micah 6:8.

Leader: This is who God is!

ALL: “I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord (Jeremiah 9:24).

The Litany of Confession:

Leader: In grateful response to who God is and what he's done for us through Jesus, we act, love, and walk.

Girls: We act justly by taking action and doing what is right.

All: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

Girls: We love mercy by serving one another with love, kindness, and compassion.

All: Serve one another humbly in love.

Girls: We walk humbly with God by saying “yes” to God and walking in his way for our lives.

All: Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Leader: Lord, we know we don't always live up to your plans for us.

All: Help us, Lord, to live by your Word and be strengthened by your love. Show us how to act justly,

love mercy, and walk humbly with you and one another. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 56:13

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 327
“Trust and Obey”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“O Rest in the Lord” from *Elijah* (8:40)

Felix Mendelssohn

arr. Larry Visser

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him and he shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto him, and trust in him, and fret not thyself because of evil doers. O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him.

Psalm 37:1,7

“This Is the Way (Walk in It)” (11:00)

David Ray

He has shown you what is good, what does the Lord require, what does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with your God? So whether you turn to the right or turn to the left, coming from behind you, you will hear a voice saying “This is the way, so walk in it!”

You gotta act justly and you love mercy and you walk humbly with your God. Act justly and you love mercy and you walk humbly with your God. Just walk in it!

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The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory:

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

arr. Dan Forrest

*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: Micah 6:1-8 (p.1452)

The Sermon: **“ACT. LOVE. WALK.”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 730
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Choral Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Benediction (11:00)

“We Receive Your Blessing”

Grace and Natasha Moes

We receive your blessing, we receive your grace, as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creature here below. Praise him, above you heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and praise the Holy Ghost. We receive your blessing, we receive your grace, as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

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*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude

“Partita on *Trust and Obey*”

Larry Visser

VI Toccata Glorioso

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Greg Alley – trumpeter

Chancel Choir Women’s Ensemble, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)

GEMS Girls Choir, Tina Rooks – director (11:00)

René Baatenburg and Carmen Day – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Audrey Magee and Claudia Hollenbach – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Libby Kuiper – GEMS Flag (11:00)

Mady Kuiper and Penny Redder – GEMS Litany (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

Partita on *Trust and Obey* was commissioned by Dr. Joan

Ringerwole, professor emeritus of organ at Dordt

University where she taught for 38 years. The hymn was a favorite of her mother who lived to the age of 101 and passed away in 2016, and the piece is dedicated to Joan in memory of her mother. Various styles of writing and colors of organ

sound are featured in each movement of the partita. The concluding movement (this morning’s postlude) is a large toccata with the hymn melody played in the foot pedals.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Joady Hoekstra**, the **John Schat family** and the **Jon VanHekken family** in loving memory of husband, father and grandfather, **Jim Hoekstra**.

The April special offering is for **Family Promise of Grand Rapids**, who partners with local congregations, individuals, families, foundations and corporations to provide emergency shelter and case management for families with children facing a housing crisis.

This evening, we will celebrate communion and Rev. Peter Jonker will preach.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live