

September 10, 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:

“Excerpts from *Sonata No. 3*”
“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

Felix Mendelssohn
Larry Visser

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”
From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise: let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word: thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Gordon Young

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 540

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Stanza 3 a cappella

All who are able, please sing the descant on stanza 4

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Deuteronomy 6:3-7

The Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you once led your people by a pillar of cloud and fire, and then you gave us your commands to lead us: so that we could live the way you intend, and so that our hearts would turn toward you. When we find our obedience running thin or we are inclined to argue for our own way, have mercy on us. Help us to trust that your perfect law gives freedom. Help us rest in the truth that your will for us in Christ is more life-giving than we can imagine. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:1-2, 14, 17

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 695:1,4
“And Can It Be”

The Commissioning of Rachel Thorne

*The Song of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 352:1,4
“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Moment

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“What Does the Lord Require?”

Eric Nelson

What does the Lord require for praise and offering? What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring? To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God. Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know? Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow? Then do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

Words: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt., para. Micah 6:6-8, and copyright 1988 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission under OneLicense #707908

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Acts 15:1-21 (p.1716)

The Sermon: **“HOW DO I FIND THE WILL OF GOD?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 43:1,2
“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Liturgy of the Lord's Supper – *See Insert*

During the passing of the Bread, the congregation sings:

Lift Up Your Hearts 659

“Nearer, Still Nearer”

During the Passing of the Wine, the choir sings:

“There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

Bob Chilcott

There is a green hill far away, without a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear, but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his precious blood.

The offerings for Benevolence and the General Fund will be collected during the closing hymn.

Please remain seated until the final verse of the hymn.

The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 840

“Behold the Lamb”

Congregation remains seated during offering, and rises on final stanza

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Fugue”

Louis Lefébure-Wely

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director

Chad Boorsma and Rene Baatenberg – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Ruby VanHaitsma and Brad VanHaitsma – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Ordinary Time, the liturgical season of spiritual growth, continues until Advent. Notice that the liturgical colors for Ordinary Time, blue and green, are now lighter and changing in color. Along with the addition of texture, they symbolize elements of growth and the passage of time. As we continue through this time, reflect on these 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. These banners, hung in diptych form, were thoughtfully designed by David Huizenga and fabricated in collaboration with Jan and Claude Bos.

Music at LaGrave:

In searching God's will for our lives, the prophet Micah offers this answer: "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Eric Nelson, director of the esteemed Atlanta Master Chorale and professor of music at Emory University, set these words to music in his consoling anthem *What Does the Lord Require?* Nelson's lyrical melodic style is a hallmark of his many church anthems.

The flowers on the chancel today are dedicated to the beautiful, engaging and formative Summer on the Psalms so loved these last months. With gratitude, **Dan and Ann Van Erden**.

The September special offering is for **Exalta Health**.

Exalta Health 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.

This evening, Rev. Peter Jonker will lead our service. He will preach on John 19:30, one of Jesus' last words from the cross.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live