

September 17, 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:

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Paul Manz, David Cherwien, Charles Ore

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Charles Callahan

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love, to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 581

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

The Prayer of Confession:

Awesome and compassionate God,

you have loved us with an unending love,

yet we have not loved you.

You call us to be patient with one another,

yet we rush past those in need.

You call us to forgive,

yet we become angered and hold grudges.

You call us to be selfless,

yet we turn our attention towards ourselves.

You call us to be humble,

yet we are prideful.

Forgive us, Lord, so that we may wholeheartedly

love you and our neighbors. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 4:9-10

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 351

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

The Celebration of Baptism (11:00)

The Meaning of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism

Sloane Elizabeth Schat, daughter of Sam and Payton Schat

Prayer Partner: Marlene Padding

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 427:1,3,5

“How Firm a Foundation”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message (8:40)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Christ Hath a Garden”

Carl Smith

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace. From out the world's wide wilderness. Like trees of spice his servants stand. There planted by his mighty hand: by Eden's gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air; stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come. That he may come and linger yet, among the trees that he hath set: that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

The Offering

The Offertory:

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

Dan Forrest

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

*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 Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 (p.1777)

The Sermon: **“I WAS JUST WONDERING...HOW DO I APPROACH DATING, MARRIAGE AND SINGLENESS?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn:

“In Our Households, Heavenly Father”

1. In our households, heavenly Father, bless the bonds that make us one. May our love reflect your loving; may your will be always done.

2. Send your Spirit to inspire us and to teach your discipline. May our acts and conversations show your peace and joy within.

3. **And in single life or married, make us open to your call to encourage, comfort others, and show love to one and all.**
4. **Help us make our homes a haven, quick with hospitality. Move us, Lord, to serve each other with true love and charity.**

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*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Fugue on the Theme of the Carillon of the Cathedral
of Soissons”

Maurice Duruflé

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rachel Thorne – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, duo-pianist

Dr. Rob Hobgood – duo-pianist

Alanna Rynders – oboist

Vocal Quartet, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)

Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano, Jess Hollenbach – alto

Jim Elzinga – tenor, Peter Redder – bass

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)

Linda Slotsma and Dan Slotsma – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – 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:

British poet Robert Bridges (1844-1930) was a doctor by training, a writer of many hymn texts, and Poet Laureate

from 1913-1930. His poems reflect a deep Christian faith and his hymns were written to improve the quality of the hymns being written in his time. *Christ Hath a Garden*, an allegorical text originally penned by Isaac Watts, was thought to have been written for marriages. Carl Smith, one of many composers who have set this text to music, uses a beautiful English folk song to carry Bridges' text and assigns the oboe an instrumental descant.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Jean and Melanie Scott** in memory of **Don Scott**, husband, father, grandfather, choral conductor, teacher, and friend, on his birthday.

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, our guest preacher will be Dr. Dan Kroeze, Professor of Biblical Studies from Kuyper College. He will bring us a message based on Revelation 5 entitled, "He Is Worthy."

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live