

**September 24, 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:

“Partita on AZMON (Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing)”  
Mark Brampton Smith

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Sing with Joy to God, All the Earth” (8:40) Larry Visser  
*Sing with joy to God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Sing, shout, shout, sing! Make his praise glorious!*  
Psalm 66:1-2 Music Copyright © 2014 by GIA Publications, Inc.  
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“Grazioso” (11:00) Arnold Sherman  
Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Colossians 4:6)

\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 483:1,3,4  
“Come, We That Love the Lord”

\*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

### ***We Approach God with Penitence***

The Call to Confession: John 13:34-35

The Prayer of Confession:

**Loving God, we know you are the source of true life and we want to tell everyone about you. But often we clamor for words, afraid of saying the wrong thing or embarrassing ourselves. We confess that the entire experience of sharing the Gospel can feel overwhelming. In your mercy, remind us of the power of loving acts which demonstrate the good news of Jesus and give us courage to act accordingly. For the sake of your kingdom we pray. Amen.**

The Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:8-9

\*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 727  
“Christian Hearts in Love United”

### ***The Celebration of Baptism (11:00)***

The Meaning of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism and Profession of Faith of **Conner Phillips**

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 770  
“In Christ Alone”

### ***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“We Walk by Faith” (8:40) David Lasky  
*We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from him who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.*

*We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in his promise we rejoice, and cry “My Lord and God!”*

*Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call you when you are near, and seek where you are found.*

*That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.*

“They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” (11:00)  
Douglas E. Wagner

The Offering

The Offertory:

“Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak” Alice Jordan  
Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

\*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: Colossians 4:2-6 (p.1832)

The Sermon: **“I WAS JUST WONDERING...HOW DO I TALK TO MY FRIENDS ABOUT FAITH?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

### ***We Respond with Praise***

\*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 925  
“Go to the World”

\*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:

“Praecambulum” Vincent Lübeck

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)

Bells Jubilate, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)

Rachel Rynbrandt and Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding and Carmen Day – 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:**

Henry Alford's 19th-century text *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* recalls the story of Jesus appearing to doubting Thomas who needed to touch the Risen Christ's hands and side in order to believe. Alford was a British clergyman and author of several hymn texts. American organ and choral composer David Lasky wrote an arrangement of the hymn tune used for this text, also from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Lasky features the hymn in unison, two and four-part harmony, and a final verse with a soaring soprano descant portraying the glory of beholding the face of Christ in heaven.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are presented in memory of **John Dykhouse**, who went to his heavenly home on September 21, 2020. Lovingly remembered by **Gwen Dykhouse and family**.

**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**, Reverend Jonker will preach on Luke 10:38-42 and his sermon is titled "One Needful Thing."

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