

November 12, 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 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*” Carson Cooman

- I Ostinato marcato
- II Bicinium
- III Aria
- IV Gigue-Finale

“Prelude on *O for a Closer Walk with God*” (8:40) Gordon Young

“Beautiful Savior” (11:00) James L. Klein

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester” Malcolm Archer

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 538

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

sing stanza three a cappella

all who are able, sing descant on stanza 4

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: Joshua 24:14-15

The Prayer of Confession:

Faithful God, you have made human hearts to long for you. But often our longings are restless. In the blinding glare of what is exciting or novel, we lose sight of your loving power and goodness. When we are tempted to find fulfillment in transient things rather than in our changeless Lord, realign the loves of our hearts. When we forget that you are great and good, remind us of your goodness specifically to us. Bravely we pray that you would topple whatever idols compete with you for our devotion. Set us gloriously free to walk with you in the relationship you designed us to have. We want to want to love you – first, best, and most. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Colossians 1:9-12

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 661

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” (8:40) Bradley Ellingboe

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move. Stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love thee as I ought to love.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame. The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine own soul, heart and strength and mind; I see thy cross—there teach my heart to cling: O let me seek thee and O let me find.

“Nearer, My God, to Thee” (11:00)

Tom Trenney

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me; still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to thee. Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Yea, though the vale I tread, thou art with me. When shadows cloud my head, thou anointest me. Thy rod and staff shall be comfort to shepherd me nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee. Though waters foam and roar, though mountains quake, thou art my refuge sure, though the earth should shake. Lord, strengthen and shelter me nearer, my God, to thee, nearer, my God, nearer, nearer to thee.

Sarah Flower Adams, Tom Trenney © 2020 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP)
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The Offering

The Offertory:

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Carlton R. Young

*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 9:24-27 (p.1780)

The Sermon: **“I WAS JUST WONDERING...WHY DON'T I ENJOY MY DEVOTIONS?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 353

“Rejoice, O Pure in Heart”

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen (8:40)

*The Organ Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live

*The Postlude:

“Recessional”

William Lloyd Webber

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Maion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

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

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

Jennifer Schroder – vocalist (11:00)

Chad Boorsma and Rene Baatenburg – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Ruby and Brad VanHaitsma – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40)

Composer Bradley Ellingboe, a St. Olaf College and Eastman School of Music graduate, taught choral music for 30 years at the University of New Mexico and is now retired with over 150 musical works to his credit. The atmospheric and ethereal quality of his anthem based on the well-known hymn *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* musically depicts the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit through vocal soloists, unpredictable rhythms, handbells ringing a repeated pattern, an improvisatory clarinet part, and rustling windchimes.

The flowers on the chancel today are given in honor, gratitude and thanks to my caring, thoughtful, LaGrave Church Family by **Paul Wright**. "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

The November special offering is for **World Renew**, who work in 30 countries responding to both natural disasters and civil unrest. With partner organizations, they provide for displaced families and invest in local economies to help rebuild communities and renew hope, bringing long-term stability for future storms. World Renew embraces a family-centered approach to ending global poverty with food security, peace and justice, economic livelihood and health. They join families in more than 30 developing countries to change global hunger, poverty, and illness.

This evening Dr. Laura Smit, professor of religion at Calvin University will preach, and we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, which will be administered by intinction. The service will also include the Campus Choir from Calvin University under the direction of Dr. James Borst.