

November 19, 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:

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Let All Things Now Living”

Michael Bedford

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

Malcolm Archer

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Let All Things Now Living” (8:40)

Cathy Moglebust

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days. His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (11:00)

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks, when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 515:1,2,4-6

“Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: Matthew 25:1-13

The Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, while we wait for your coming, you have called us to be the church. Yet we acknowledge we have become more apathetic than active, more isolated than involved, more obstinate than obedient. We confess how hard it is to be your people. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Awaken our hearts and give us wisdom as we continue to wait in eager expectation for your coming. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: 1 Timothy 1:15-16

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 483:1,2,4

“Come, We that Love the Lord”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Food Offering

We give our pre-thanksgiving offerings for the Westminster Food Bank. Please come forward down the center aisle with your food offering, and return to your seat by the side aisles. If you did not bring food, you may come forward with a monetary offering and place it in one of the offering plates. You may also stay in your seat.

While the offering is brought forward, we sing:

Worship and Rejoice 570

“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

Lift Up Your Hearts 560

“We Praise You, O God”

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (8:40)

Cynthia Dobrinski

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home; gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin there, forever purified, in your

presence to abide; come, with all your angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

“Keep Your Lamps” (11:00) African-American Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Matthew 24:36-51 (p.1543)

The Sermon: **“I WAS JUST WONDERING...**

HOW DO I UNDERSTAND THE END TIMES?”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: **Worship and Rejoice 534**

“When the King Shall Come Again”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Now Thank We All Our God”

David Cherwien

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rachel Thorne – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Bells Jubilate, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)

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

Perrin Rynders – percussionist (11:00)

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

Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40)

Voluminous poet and hymn writer Henry Alford (1810-1871) wrote *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come in 1844*. It is both a

hymn for the harvest (based on the parables of the growing seed and the wheat and weeds) and also the end times. The harvest theme becomes an eschatological metaphor for the final judgment when the angels will gather God's chosen people into the "glorious harvest home" and cast the evil "weeds" into the "fire." Cynthia Dobrinski's handbell arrangement of this hymn features the melody in 3/4 and 4/4 time, mallet playing, and a fanfare-like ending.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Scott Stehouwer, Andy, Becca, Josh, Ellie & Hannah VandeGriend** in memory of **Nancy DeVos Stehouwer** on the anniversary of her passing. We are grateful to God for her example as a loving wife, mom, Nana and teacher to many.

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 we will joyfully witness the **ordination of Chad Boorsma** as a Commissioned Pastor in our denomination. **Reverend John Steigenga** will preach and his sermon will be on Luke 10:25-37. His sermon is called "Inconvenient Care."

Livestreaming worship is available at lgrave.org/live