

November 26, 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:

“Prelude on *Amazing Grace*”

Paul Fey

“O Happy They Who Are Forgiven”

J. Wayne Kerr

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God”

O come, my soul, sing praise to God your Maker, and all within me, praise his holy name. Sing praise to God, forget not all his mercies; his pardoning grace and saving love proclaim.

Praise him, you angels, wondrous in might; praise him, you servants who in his will delight.

*The Processional Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 59***

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Approach God with Penitence

The Call to Confession: Colossians 3:12-14

The Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we want to live as your holy and dearly loved children, bearing with one another and forgiving each other. But we must continually put to death self-defense, pride, and the pursuit of revenge. When we are the offender, give us humility to ask for forgiveness. When we are offended, give us compassion to accept an apology. Remind us of the forgiveness you offer us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:6-11

*The Hymn of Celebration: Lift Up Your Hearts 604

“To God Be the Glory”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory:

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Robert A. Hobby

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.

*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: Matthew 5:38-48 (p.1507)

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

HOW DO I LOVE AND FORGIVE MY ENEMIES?”

The Anthem:

“Amazing Grace”

arr. John Coates, Jr.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.*

The Prayer for Blessing

We Respond with Praise

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 679

“For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free”

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“For the Glories of God's Grace”

David Blackwell

Chad Boorsma – minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

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

Vocal Ensemble, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)

Glenda Buteyn, Jennifer Schroder – soprano

Jess Hollenbach, Renee Vande Wege – alto

Ted Rozeboom, Ben VanHouten – tenor

Peter Redder, Jason Reiffer – bass

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

Marlene Padding and Carmen Day – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

American jazz pianist, music editor, composer and arranger John Coates, Jr. (1938-2017) arranged the early American hymn *Amazing Grace* in 1971. It has sold over 750,000 copies and remains a best seller at Shawnee Press where Coates worked as

a music editor. His influence in jazz and gospel styles is evident in the swinging piano accompaniment. Following a dramatic buildup, Coates repeats the first verse, ending in a state of hushed wonder.

The flowers on the chancel today are given in gratitude from the Planned Giving Committee—to thank all who have remembered loved ones through contributions to the Planned Giving Committee or who have graciously thought to remember the Planned Giving Committee via estate gifts. “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11.

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.

There is **no evening service**.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live