

August 25, 2024

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 10:00 AM

Please prepare your heart and mind for worship with a time of prayer and meditation.

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Aria” Eugène Bozza
“Gigue” Arcangelo Corelli; arr. Willis Coggins
“Just as I Am” Charles Ore

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Restore in Us, O God” Hal .H Hopson
Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love; renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.
text: Carl P. Daw Jr. 1987 © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 66188
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*The Processional Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 24***
“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Experience God's Grace

The Call to Confession: John 15:1-8

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples not long before his crucifixion:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

*The Hymn of Assurance: “Fruitful Trees the Spirit's Sowing”

- 1. Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
may we ripen and increase,
fruit to life eternal growing,
rich in love and joy and peace.**
- 2. Laden branches freely bearing
gifts the Giver loves to bless;
here is fruit that grows by sharing,
patience, kindness, gentleness.**
- 3. Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
teach us, as the years fly faster,
goodness, faith, and self-control.**
- 4. Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
may we grow till harvests cease;
till we taste, in life unending,
heaven's love and joy and peace.**

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We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Created in His Image” Sally DeFord
He has given me these hands, formed in the image of his own, he has given me these eyes to see the path of truth that leads me home. And he has given me this voice, and hears each quiet prayer I speak. He has given me this heart to feel the unspoken answers that I seek.

Refrain:

Created in his image, nurtured in his care, sent to earth to learn the noble heritage I bear, created in his image, his light will be my guide, a heavenly inheritance, because I am his child.

Hands like his to freely give, hands to make some burden light, eyes like his to know another's need, as I learn to see with heaven's sight. My voice, like his, may offer hope, or bid some tempest “Peace, be still.” And my heart, like his, can share his perfect love as my life reflects my Father's will. (Refrain)

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The Offertory:

“It Is Well with My Soul” Brent Olstad

The Offering

*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.**

The Children's Message

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28 (p. 3)

The Sermon: **“WHO AM I?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go Out to Serve

*The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 739
“I Surrender All”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Grand Chœur in D (in the style of Handel)” César Franck

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Stan Kruis – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Nancy VanNoord – alto saxophonist

Karen Albert – vocalist

Sheryl VanEck & Mia Ackerman – Cross and Bible Bearers

Mezzo-Soprano Karen Albert maintains an active schedule performing with orchestras, ensembles, churches, and on various concert series throughout the region. In addition to her work as a soloist, Karen is the Director of Music at Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Jenison and is a member of the professional choral ensemble VOXGR.

Alto Saxophonist Nancy VanNoord teaches grades 5-8 band and grades 5-6 choir and music at Ada Christian School and attends Ada CRC where she is a music and worship leader. Welcome to both these guest musicians.

Music at LaGrave:

This morning's prelude combines the work of a French violinist and composer—Eugène Bozza—(1905-1991) who is known for his many pieces for woodwinds and chamber ensemble, a transcription of Italian Baroque composer Arcangelo Corelli's (1653-1713) lively *Gigue*, and American Lutheran organist and composer Charles Ore's (b. 1936) gospel style setting of *Just as I Am*. The contrasting styles of these three pieces display the versatility and colors of the alto saxophone, an instrument primarily associated with jazz.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Matt and Deb Vogel** in loving memory of **Al and Eleanor Vogel**.

Ordinary Time, the longest liturgical season, is a time of spiritual growth. The banners are hung in the diptych form but instead of being attached together they are side by side yet separated. Both the banners and paraments reflect concepts from Isaiah 12:2-3. We come to know the Lord

more deeply as our strength and our salvation. With joy we grow spiritually by being rooted in God's word.

The August special offering is for **Home Repair Services**.

Home Repair Services provides lower income families housing support, home repairs, financial counseling and home maintenance education and classes.

This evening, Rev. Jonker will preach on Luke 7:1-10 and his sermon is titled “The Surprising Centurion”.