

February 9, 2025

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:

“As the Deer”

arr. Lloyd Larson

“The Gift of Love”

arr. Lloyd Larson

“In Heavenly Love Abiding”

Felix Mendelssohn

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” (8:40)

In a deep, unbounded darkness long before the first light shone, you, O God, beyond all merit, worked a wonder faith makes known: in your mercy, you embrace us as your own evermore and evermore.

Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace, sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh, in time and space: Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face evermore and evermore.

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“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” (11:00)

arr. Susan Berry and Janet Van Valey

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning
on the everlasting arms.

*The Processional Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 90:1-4***

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: John 15:5-8

The Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you are the vine and we are the branches.

Forgive us for the times we have separated ourselves from you.

When we abide in you, Lord, we have the ability to bear good fruit which includes loving you and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us for the times we have produced bad fruit by being angry, selfish, and prideful and have, therefore, rejected the needs of those around us.

Lord, turn our hearts and minds back to you so that we may abide in you and bear the fruit of love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

The Words of Forgiveness: Hebrews 10:19-23

*The Hymn: ***Worship & Rejoice 346***

“O Come to Me, the Master Said”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (8:40)

Tom Trenney

I want to walk as a child of the Light; I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. Shine, shine!

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“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (11:00)

arr. Susan E. Geschke

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear—

all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

The Offering

The Offertory:

“I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew”

arr. Faye López and Jennifer Whitcomb

I find, I walk, I love; but, oh, the whole of love is but my answer,
Lord, to thee! For thou wert long beforehand with my soul; always,
always thou lovedst me.

*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: John 15:9-17 (p.1677)

The Sermon: **“THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD: FRIENDS”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: ***Lift Up Your Hearts 727***

“Christian Hearts in Love United”

*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:

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Wayne L. Wold

Thou our Father, Christ, our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister
Rachel Thorne – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Ruth Bylsma, Amber Schaap – flutists

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

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

Rene Baatenburg & Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

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

Epiphany is the liturgical season from Christmastide to Lent. During this time we focus on Jesus Christ, the Savior, who is the manifestation of God’s light in our dark and sin-filled world. As we grow in knowledge of God’s redemptive acts through Jesus Christ, we are called to respond by bringing the light of the gospel to our neighbors and the world. These concepts are reflected in the symbol of the Trinity and the gold and white colors used in the banners and paraments.

Music at LaGrave (8:40):

Kathleen Thomerson’s rich Epiphany hymn text *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* was penned in 1970. Nearly every line of text can be traced to a Scripture verse.

Thomerson also wrote the music for her hymn. Tom Trenney, Minister of Music and Organist at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, composed a beautiful choral arrangement of this hymn that is full of lush harmonies, an exciting crescendo just prior to a peaceful ending, and a flowing piano accompaniment.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Norm and Terri Boerema**, in loving memory of son **Jack** and parents **John and Betty Boerema**. May these flowers be a reminder to give our sons, daughters and grandchildren a hug.

The February special offering is for **Wedgwood Christian Services**, which provides social services and treatment to meet the needs of hurting children, youth and families in the community who are struggling with a wide range of issues.

This evening, Pastor Jonker will preach on Romans 16 and his sermon is titled “Paul’s Slideshow.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live