

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, March 7, 2021



An Order of Worship to be followed in your home, along with our
worship video on your own
Preferably at 10:00am

Welcome and Announcements

If you are new among us, welcome. Please know we are glad you're here; you're welcome in our remote community and you're welcome in our physical community when the time is right.

At Lakewood Congregational Church, we strive to be people of extravagant welcome. Whether you are young or old, gay or straight, single or partnered, happy or sad, confused or inspired, street smart or college-educated, whether you can't pay your bills or you have more than enough to share—no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here in this place, to worship a loving God who welcomes us all. As I stand in this sanctuary I join my heart with you and I pray that you might feel the refuge of this space.

May the Peace of Christ be with you. Let us worship God.

Prelude

"God, You Are My Refuge" from *Biblical Songs* by Antonin Dvorak
Gwen Delaney, mezzo-soprano; Ben Malkevitch, piano
(a remote collaboration)

Invitation to the Offering

Our tokens offered here are but symbols of our lives of sacrifice lived every day. May we give ourselves to the world as a holy offering acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Dedication Prayer

Receive these gifts, Holy One, sanctify them by your Spirit. Drive away any ill motives and accept, we pray, our humble offering. Amen.

Hymn *Here I Am, Lord*

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save*

*Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart
I will hold Your people in my heart*

LCC Virtual Choir

Gwendolyn DeLaney and Victoria Peacock, sopranos;
Gwendolyn DeLaney, alto; Peter Hampton, Steve Hotchkiss,
Michael Komperda, Ben Liu, tenors; Noah Hamrick, Tim Hampton,
Robert Wenz, basses
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Scripture Reading, read by Thom Geist

Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous

God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Message

There is not a transcript of this week's sermon. However, you may reflect on these references to the Ten Commandments which are discussed in today's reflection.

Brian McLaren's Ten Commandments from his book "We Make the Road by Walking:"

1. Put the God of liberation first, not the gods of slavery.
2. Don't reduce God to the manageable size of an idol - certainly not one made of wood and stone by human hands, and not one made by human minds of ritual and words, either, and certainly not one in whose name people are enslaved, dehumanized, or killed!
3. Do not use God for your own agendas by throwing around God's holy name. If you make a vow in God's name, keep it!
4. Honor the God of liberation by taking and giving everyone a day off. Don't keep the old 24/7 slave economy going.
5. Turn from self-centeredness by honoring your parents. (After all, honor is the basis of freedom.)
6. Don't kill people, and don't do the things that frequently incite violence, including:
7. Don't cheat with others' spouses.
8. Don't steal others' possessions, and
9. Don't lie about others' behaviors or characters.
10. In fact, if you really want to avoid the violence of the old slave economy, deal with its root source - in the drama of desire. Don't let the competitive desire to acquire tempt you off the road of freedom.

Enfleshed.com Ten Commandments Remix:

1. practice loyalty to the Sacred.
2. remember every image of God is only a glimpse.
3. do not use God's name to do harm.
4. do not allow productivity to dominate life.
5. care for those who have cared for you and honor those who have paved your way.
6. do not be unnecessarily destructive.
7. be faithful to the commitments you make.
8. do not take what does not belong to you.

9. do not hinder justice from coming to fruition.
10. do not use power over others to get what you want.

Service of Holy Communion, reflecting on the Ten Words of the Exodus

God brought us to this table, a place safe from human constraints. We shall not treat our traditions like gods, or make idols of a particular Bread and Cup.

We will not imply that a sacrament shared at a kitchen table is less real than any other, for that is to misuse God's name.

We remember that this virtual experience is worship, and keep it holy. Just because we can turn off our video to retrieve laundry to fold, and then fold it, we don't. Working twenty-four-seven is too like a parable of morning-after the bigger barn project, and there is no beatitude 'Blessed are the multitaskers.'

This virtual time is a sabbath to God. This sacrament's consecration is in the story that stretches back to beyond the light years of light years.

We honor the communion of saints and name the ones precious to each of us personally, and then acknowledge those we do not know who have passed into grace, especially those who do not look like us, speak our language, love as we love, worship as we do - for their heritage is our heritage and the future of their children is our future.

We set down this sacred offering, confessing our complicity in things that kill, that betray, that steal (even if it is legal) and committing to a reconciliation as real as this Bread and Cup.

We will not bear false news of our neighbors, or share, re-post, re-tweet it, nor will we doom scroll God's Spirit within us.

We will not covet last year's service or next year's service. We will not covet sung kyries and glorias or the simplicity of "Let Us Break Bread Together," in a time when we do not sing. We will not covet another community's sophisticated technical platform or the homeyness of a pastor's dog barking. We will not covet any other experience of the Body of Christ or the Cup of Blessing than the one we are sharing now.

Words of Remembering

In Lent we come to remember
that Jesus Christ
sitting among those
whose feet he had washed, and with whom he had healed and
served so many people in so many places,
anticipated that those same people would soon betray and
desert him,
Even to pain and even to death,

But even in that anticipation, he made a new Covenant
of blessed bread and poured wine
That would translate from table to table, generation to
generation,
inviting us always to share
from our brokenness and grace.

Prayer of Consecration (from Psalm 19)

O God, the sky speaks your glory and deep space your creation.
Daybreak announces hope and starlight sings rest in a language
that needs no translation but joy. Nothing is hidden from you, and

you make no barriers for human understanding. We are revived, enlivened, warned and comforted. Beyond even the bright and sweet parables of our lives, you free us from definitions of relationship based in dominion and being dominated and you lead us to words of reconciliation and grace. So reconciled, we pray -

Let the Bread of our mouths and the Cup upon which our hearts meditate, be acceptable to you, O God, at this ordinary table and in our lives of redeeming. Amen

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us at many tables receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: We come to Christ in the Bread we share.

Leader: Let us in many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: We come to Christ in the Cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: In thanksgiving for this sustenance on our Lenten journey and the grace of holy dispersion in virtual worship, we claim the story of Jesus Christ as our own, a path of healing and service, the cross and the ever-present truth of the resurrection. Let us pray ..

O Holy One, we come to you with our weariness and hope. We thank you for the rest and strength of this Communion so that we may return our tables to service in the world and hear your words of guidance every day and every night through Christ who has taught us to pray, saying ...

The Lord's Prayer,

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Benediction

Go in Peace. Amen.

Postlude

I Need Thee Every Hour, arr. by Lucas Carson
Ben Malkevitch, organ

Offering and Contribution Collection

Please consider fulfilling your pledges during this time. Financial gifts are always welcome, and our church feels the call to respond to the needs around us as they arise. Financial stability allows us to do so more effectively. So, let us give generously of our time, talent, treasure to further the work of God in our community. You can do so in the following ways:

- Writing and mailing a check to Lakewood Congregational Church, 1375 W. Clifton Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107
- Texting STEWARD to 44-321
- Sending a gift through your bank's online bill pay
- By using the donate button on the church's website www.lcc-church.org
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options

Our Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.

*We strive to be a welcoming,
worshipping community of faith,
helping people discover and deepen
their relationship with God, growing as
disciples of Christ, and reaching out in
faith and loving service.*

In keeping with the spirit of our Mission Statement,

*Lakewood Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ,*

is an Open and Affirming congregation.

*We welcome people of all sexual orientation,
ages, differing abilities, and ethnic, economic,
and racial backgrounds into
the full life and ministry of our church.*

*We declare this in the name of the Still Speaking God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, welcomed
all people into God's circle of grace.*

