

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Wednesday February 22, 2023



An Order of Worship to be followed in your home,  
along with our Livestream Service at 7:00 pm

## 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.

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## Prelude

William Taggart

*Ashes*

Ben Malkevitch, piano

## Welcome

### Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 51:1-17)

One: Have mercy upon us, O Holy One, according to your unfailing love.

**Many: Refresh and renew us in your righteousness.**

One: Have mercy upon us, O Holy One, according to your unfailing love.

**Many: Rend our hearts to the brokenness around us.**

One: Have mercy upon us, O Holy One, according to your unfailing love.

**Many: Revive us again with a new and right spirit.**

## Prayer of Confession

God of Compassion, We turn toward you now. Forgive our pride and forgive our insecurities. Forgive our self-absorption and forgive our self-destruction. Forgive our doubts and forgive our confidence. Forgive our longing for attention and forgive our desire to hide. Forgive each step we take away from you. "Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit within me." Amen.

## Opening Hymn

# 515

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

## Scripture

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

## Reflection

## Anthem

Tom Kendzia

*Psalm 51*

Singers from the LCC Chancel Choir

## Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

*(You are invited to come forward to receive ashes on your hand or on your forehead. If you are unable to come forward and still wish to receive ashes, please signal to a greeter, and they will be brought to you in your seat)*

## Scripture Response

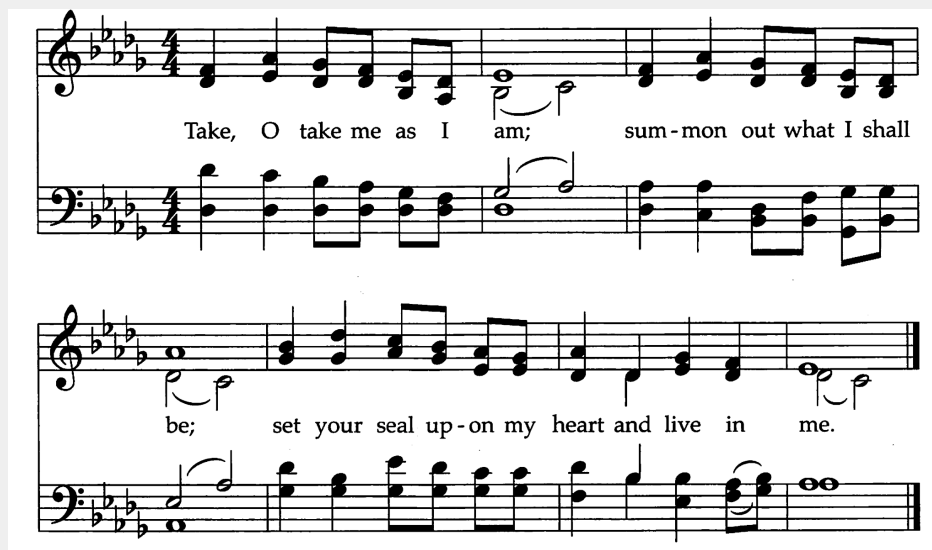
Isaiah 58:11-12

*God will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.*

## Closing Hymn

by John Bell

*Take, O Take Me As I Am*



## Benediction

Christ be with me.

**Christ be within me.**

Christ behind me.

**Christ before me.**

Christ beside me

**Christ to win me.**

Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me.

**Christ above me**

Christ in quiet.

**Christ in danger.**

Christ in hearts of all who love me.

**Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

Let us go in the peace of Christ

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Jane McNeal

*Ashes to Ashes*  
Ben Malkevitch, piano

# TAIZÉ SERVICE & LABYRINTH WALK

an hour of  
prayer & reflection

Monday March 13 | 7 PM  
LCC Social Hall

## Holy<sup>+</sup> Week @ LCC

Palm Sunday Worship	APR. 2   10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	APR 6   7:00 PM
Community Good Friday Service	APR 7   7:00 PM @ LAKEWOOD UMC
Community Easter Sunrise Service	APR 9   6:30 AM @ LAKEWOOD PARK
Easter Resurrection Sunday	APR 9   10:00 AM

[www.LCC-Church.org](http://www.LCC-Church.org)

### **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, and 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
- Sending a gift through your bank's online bill pay
- By using the donate button on the church's website [www.lcc-church.org](http://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,  
worshiping 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. Wherever you are on life's  
journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual  
orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and  
ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and  
ministry of our church. We declare this in the everlasting grace  
of the Still-Speaking God.***