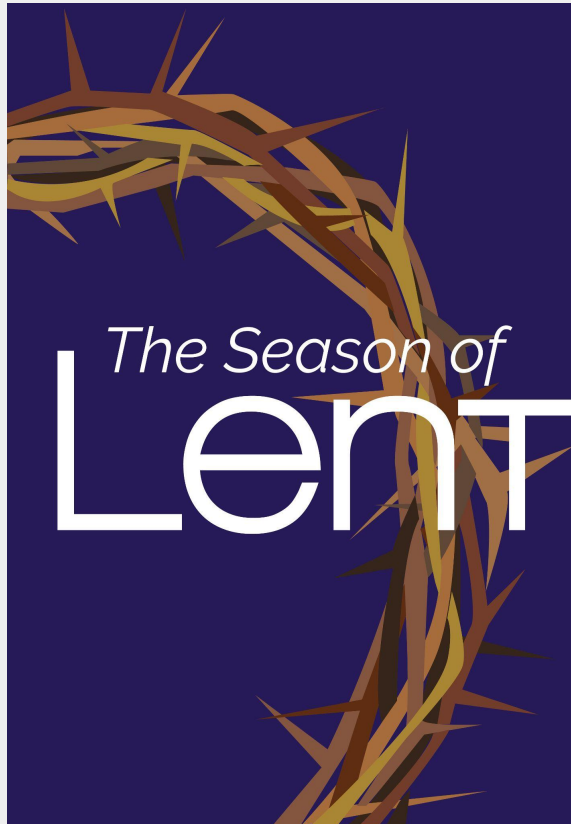


Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, February 26, 2023



An Order of Worship to be followed in your home,
along with our Livestream Service at 10:00 am

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

Jason W. Krug

Out of Darkness
LCC Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

One: God of the Sahara and the Amazon, Maker of dry places and wetlands.

Many: We come before you with parched hearts for living in this world has made them so.

One: Holy One, your ability to renew us is unmatched.

Many: You renew us from within and without.

One: Ancient of Days, you held us in the beginning, and you are holding us now.

Many: We reach out to you and draw as close as we can.

Opening Hymn

693

Touch the Earth Lightly

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Divine One, we are thankful for the restoration that can be found in you. Your presence is welcomed here. We delight in knowing that you want to be wherever we are. Because you are love, you show up for us. In this space, may we delight in your assurance that all you made is good. Amen

Anthem

John Ness Beck

Offertory
LCC Chancel Choir

HASO Reflections

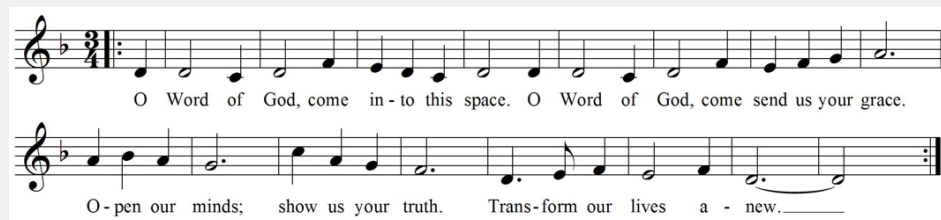
Faith Formation

All youth (Pre-K-12th grade) are welcome to join in today's Faith Formation classes. Rachel and the leaders will guide them to their classrooms. Children can be picked up there after worship.

A Time of Prayer

Invitation to Prayer

Taizé chant



O Word of God, come in - to this space. O Word of God, come send us your grace.

O - pen our minds; show us your truth. Trans - form our lives a - new. _____

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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.

A Time of Sharing

Invitation to Generosity

God gives good things to us, so let us give good things to God. Let us bring gifts that can be like water in dry places. May these resources be used to testify to the goodness of God. Amen.

Offertory

Nocturne in C minor
LCC Handbell Choir

Michael Helman

Doxology (in unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Divine One, receive our gifts from the open hearts from which we give them. Thank you for blessing us with gifts to share, so that good works can abound. We offer our gifts gladly. May what we give be used to meet the needs of all. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Patti Komperda

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will

not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

Closing Hymn

180

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Benediction

Postlude

arr. Hart Morris

For the Beauty of the Earth

LCC Handbell Choir

Paula Deal, Audrey Hancock, Michael Komperda, Val Mechenbier,
Peggy Shaw, Cathy Spicer, Susan Walker, Robert Wenz, Carol Wilson, Jan Young

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
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options



COVENANT CLASS



LENTEN SERIES WITH PASTOR JOANNA



FEB 21 UCC HISTORY & IDENTITY
7:00 PM

FEB 28 LCC HISTORY & IDENTITY
7:00 PM

MAR 14 AUTONOMY & COVENANT
7:00 PM

MAR 21 FUTURE & VISION
7:00 PM

PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE



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.

*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.*