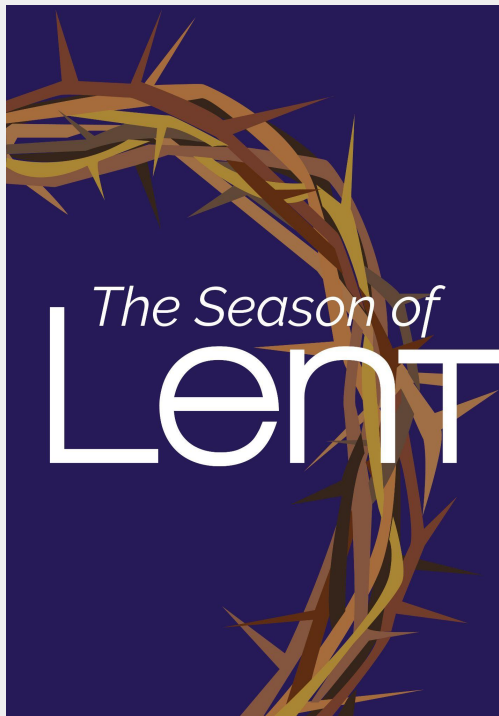


Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, March 26, 2023

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

Mark Patterson

Guide Us, Lord
LCC Faith Formation Children

Call to Worship

One: Breath of Life, you animate us.

Many: We come before you, seeking revival from within.

One: Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

Many: Empower us to make great things happen.

One: Matchless One, you bring good things to life.

Many: We too desire to bring good things to life.

Opening Hymn

#250

O Breath of Life

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Life Giver, today is a new day. Send your spirit upon us and let our souls wake up to joy. Make our time here meaningful and energizing. Breathe grace and courage into us, and may what we experience with you today change us for the better. Amen

Anthem

Maurice Duruflé
Kyrie from Requiem
LCC Chancel Choir

Special Music

Howard Ashman and Alan Menken

"Something There" from Beauty and the Beast
The Cast of LCC's Youth Musical

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff is in 3/4 time and contains the melody for the invitation to prayer: "Sing, praise, and bless God. Sing, praise, and bless God." The second staff is in 3/4 time and contains the melody for the Taizé chant: "Peo-ples! Na-tions! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!" The melody for the Taizé chant is repeated twice, with a first ending and a second ending.

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

Offertory

Kate Bush
This Woman's Work
Charlotte Petrie, vocals
Ben Malkevitch, piano

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 Sustainer, receive this offering that we gladly give. May it be used to revive and restore those in need. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Joanellen Hurley

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together,

bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

#179

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Benediction

Postlude

Finzi

Postludium

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, 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

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.*