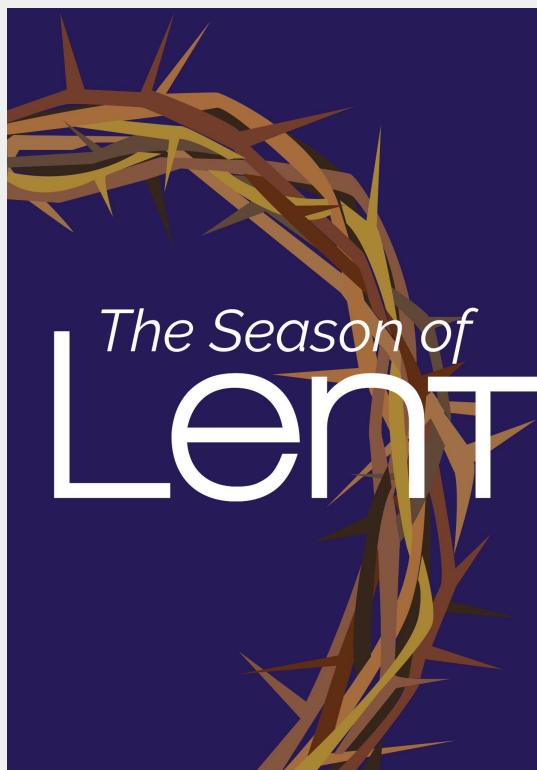


# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, March 5, 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.

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## Prelude

C. Austin Miles

*In the Garden*

Jesse Bobbitt, soprano

Ben Malkevitch, piano

## Call to Worship (from Psalm 121)

One: I lift my eyes up to the mountains, from where does my help come?

**Many: My help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth.**

One: We look not to the mountains or valleys, even heaven or earth.

**Many: For God is found among us.**

One: Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

**Many: God is here among us.**

One: Come, let us worship the God of Creation, the God of People, the God of Community.

**All: Let us worship together in faith.**

## Opening Hymn

# 24

*The God of Abraham Praise*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

O God our Creator, your kindness has given us a new morning. Help us to leave yesterday, not be anxious about tomorrow, and appreciate the unique gift of today. Open us to the movement of your Holy Spirit, that we may desire to bring new order, new possibility, and new hope in this land, and new life in the depths of our being. Amen.

## Anthem

René Clausen

*The Prayer of St. Francis*

LCC Chancel Choir

## A Time of Prayer

### Invitation to Prayer

Taizé (#523)

*Live in charity and steadfast love.*

*Live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

### 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

Richard A. Williamson

*Finding Grace*

Ben Malkevitch, organ

## 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)

May these gifts indicate our gratitude for our many blessings. May the spiritual nourishment we receive today strengthen us for continued service. Amen.

## Intro to Poverty Simulation

Terrence Rounds

*The World of Scarcity: Living on a Low-Income Budget*

## The Reading of God's Word

Martin McPherson

### Genesis 12:1-4

Now God said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as God had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

## Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

*Blessed to Be a Blessing*

## Communion Hymn

# 423

*Become to Us the Living Bread*

## Service of Holy Communion

*Today we will receive Communion at the front of the sanctuary by intinction, coming forward by row. You may select a piece of bread and dip it in juice, or choose a pre-packaged cup. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive Communion, please signal to the ushers and they will come to you. After you have received Communion, please form a circle around the perimeter of the Sanctuary and remain standing.*

## Invitation to Communion

Words of Remembering

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

## Communion Music

arr. Larry Shackley

*Near the Cross*

Ben Malkevitch, piano

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

**Holy One, we have come to you with our weariness and hope. We thank you for the rest and strength of this Holy Communion and this Body of Christ, through whom we may re-turn our tables to service in the world and hear your words of guidance every day and every night through Jesus Christ, in whose way we walk. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

# 677

*Let The Be Peace on Earth*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God our creator, children all are we.*

*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.*

*With every step I take, let this be solemn vow:*

*to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Alfred V. Fedak

*All Nature Sings*

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](http://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,  
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.*