

Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH

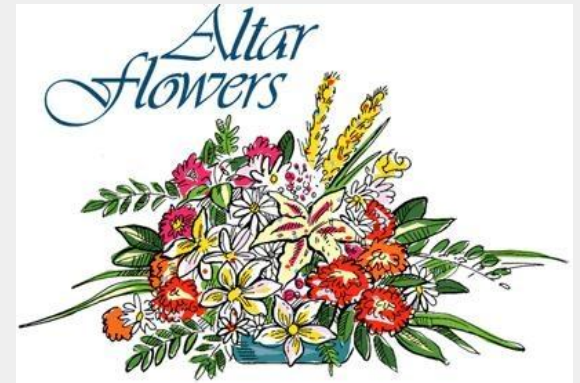


First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024 | 10:00 AM

Image: "River of Grace" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity Inspired by Luke 5:1-11
Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*The flowers on the
altar are dedicated
in loving memory of
Peter Kuhn on his
birthday*



Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

Cory Asbury

Reckless Love
Chris Burns

Call to Worship

Rev. Catherine Lawrence

One: Come in.
Feel your feet on the floor.
Settle your worries.
Take a deep breath.
Dust the cobwebs from your ears.
Relax the tension in your jaw,

Many: for Christ is here.

God never stops seeking us.

One: We have been found.

Many: Let us find God in return.

One: Let us worship the God of deep waters.

Opening Hymn

#342

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Prayer for Forgiveness (in unison)

Loving God, You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter, standing surprised to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.

Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.

Forgive us for forgetting that you will always be on our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Rev. Catherine Lawrence

Church family, hear and believe this good news:

You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the Gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in God. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Kira Adele Hamrick

Maeve Alyse Hamrick

Reflection on the Homeless Awareness Sleep Out

Anthem

arr. Hal Hopson

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LCC Chancel Choir

Children and Youth Faith Formation

Children and youth from Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to go with their faith formation leaders for the rest of the service.

Time for Lenten Reflection

Through the season of Lent, we will set aside a few moments during worship to reflect on one of our daily devotional prompts with someone sitting near us.

This week's prompt: *When Peter and Jesus first meet, they catch an abundance of fish. What in your life feels abundantly good?*

A Time of Prayer

Invitation to Prayer

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.

Prayer Response

O God, Hear My Prayer

A Time of Sharing

Offertory

I Was There to Hear Your Bornng Cry

Jesse Bobbitt

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)

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Dream of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Maic D'Agostino

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

"Jesus Sought Me"

Closing Hymn

#452

Here I am Lord

Benediction

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."

You are called. You are blessed.
In your ups and your downs, you belong to God.
Go now in peace, trusting that good news.
Amen.

Postlude

White roses on the altar

*The White Rose on the altar is in celebration of the baptism of **Kira Adele and Maeve Alyse Hamrick**, daughters of Hannah and Noah Hamrick. Their proud grandparents are Norman & Pamela Gadzinski and Dan & Karin Hamrick.*

The flowers on the organ are to welcome Adam Sampson to LCC as our new accompanist.

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.