

Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024 | 10:00 AM

Image: "Lift Off" by Nicolette Peñaranda Inspired by Matthew 14:22-23
Acrylic, ink, paper collage, and mixed media on canvas
Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

Susan E. Geschke

Celtic Grace

LCC Handbell Choir

Paula Deal, Audrey Hancock, Michael Komperda, Val Mechenbier, Peggy Shaw, Cathy Spicer, Susan Walker, Robert Wenz, Jan Young
Lisa Blasko, director

Call to Worship

Rev. Catherine Lawrence

One: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

Many: the courageous and the fearful,

One: the hungry and the hopeful,

Many: the impatient and the reserved.

One: God welcomes the young and the old,

Many: the poets and the prophets,

One: the faithful and the tired,

Many: the curious and the convicted.

One: Wherever you are on your journey,

Many: wherever your boat is at sea,

One: there is room for all to gather here.

Many: This is God's house.

One: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

Opening Hymn

#489

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Prayer for Forgiveness (in unison)

Gracious God, There are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for

doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray.

Assurance of Grace

Family of faith, You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

Pepper Choplin

Walking Cross the Sea

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.

Special Music

Michael Kasper

Climbing the Staircase

Kiarra Beckman, violin

Randy Fusco, piano

David Kasper, flute

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:

Jesus tells Peter, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Where in your life do you need courage?

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

Jason W. Krug

Out of Darkness

LCC Handbell Choir

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)

Sanctify this offering of our gifts and lives, and use it to lift up and rescue from danger not only us but our neighbors near and far. In the name of the one who walks on water we pray. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Patti Komperda

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to

the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Rescue Me From Danger

Closing Hymn

#560

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

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

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.***