

Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024 | 10:00 AM

Image: Beseaching by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 16:21-23; Ink on paper

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: On our worst days,

Many: God is good.

One: On our best days,

Many: God is good.

One: When life is consistent,

Many: God is good.

One: And when life turns on its head,

Many: God is good.

One: Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

Many: God is good. God is here. God is love.

One: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn

#565

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You

Prayer for Forgiveness (in unison)

Holy God, We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Assurance of Grace

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God,

no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change— we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God’s love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Amen.

Anthem

arr. Dan Forrest

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

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:

How are you growing right now? Are you experiencing growing pains?

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

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)

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back.

Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. Amen.

The Reading of God’s Word

Beth Abbott

Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

I’m Fixed Upon It

Closing Hymn

#86

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Benediction

Postlude

Rev. Joanna and Rev. Catherine will both be in St. Louis this week at the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) Annual Gathering. They will still be available by text/phone/email and will return on Thursday.

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.***