We Come Before God in Confession and Praise

GATHERING MUSIC *Praeludium and Fuge,* BWV 555 Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

LENTEN BELL

CALL TO CONFESSION Evan Greif
The Lenten "sacrifice" that God desires is a contrite heart and a humble spirit.
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In silence, let us humble our hearts and acknowledge our need of God's grace.

SILENT CONFESSION

UNISON CONFESSION
Merciful God, when we humble our hearts before you, we can no longer convince ourselves that we are perfect and above reproach. As your servant Paul said, "All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God." Help us to love and serve you above all else, and to do unto others as we would have them to do unto us. Give us grace to forgive and let go rather than seek revenge. Help us, Lord, to do what you require of us, loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly with you. Amen.

SUNG CONFESSION (Hymn 423, v. 1, 3)
Create in me a clean heart, O God. Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation. Restore in me the joy of your salvation.
Restore in me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your Holy Spirit.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

∗ **HYMN 435** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" IN BABILONE

∗ **ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**
Beloved in Christ: God is with us!
We are not alone!

We Listen for God's Word

FIRST LESSON Numbers 21:1-9 (Pew Bible, O.T. p.139)

ANTHEM *A Little Jazz Mass,* Agnus Dei Bob Chilcott
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

∗ **GOSPEL LESSON** John 3:1-17 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.93)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SUNG BLESSING (Hymn 487, v. 5)
Then, tender God, each child embrace. Lord, give them blessings, grant them grace.
Surprise them, Lord, with wonders still. And gently guide them to your will.

SERMON "The 'Second Birth' According to Jesus" Dr. Butler
"Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'"

We Respond to the Word

∗ **HYMN 216** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ST. CHRISTOPHER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

OFFERTORY *Jesus Lover of My Soul* Berthold Tours
Zara Smith, soprano
Jesus, Lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly. While the gathering waters roll, while the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior hide, till the storm of life be past. Safe into the haven

guide. O receive my soul at last. Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, ah leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring. Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing. Plenteous grace with Thee is found. Grace to cleanse from every sin. Let the healing streams abound. Make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee. Spring Thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.

∗ **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)

∗ **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

∗ **HYMN 547** "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" AR HYD Y NOS

∗ **CHARGE**

* **CHORAL BENEDICTION** *A Gaelic Blessing* John Rutter

Chancel Choir

Lucie Freeman, guitar

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ, the Christ, the light of the world to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship, service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor
The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist
Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

10 a.m.