

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Order of Service for the Worship of God

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent

10:00 am

AS WE WAIT...

JOY



Preparation for Worship

Please join us in singing the Gathering Songs to prepare our hearts for worship.

The Gathering

Jesus at the Center

Israel Houghton

Jesus at the center of it all
Jesus at the center of it all
From beginning to the end
It will always be it's always been You Jesus Jesus

And nothing else matters
Nothing in this world will do
Jesus You're the center
Ev'rything revolves around You Jesus You

Jesus be the center of my life
Jesus be the center of my life
From beginning to the end
It will always be it's always been You Jesus Jesus

Jesus be the center of Your church
Jesus be the center of Your church
And ev'ry knee will bow
And ev'ry tongue shall confess You

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Mission – Alpha Praise Report

Prelude

Oh Come, Divine Messiah

arr. Mazur

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stan and Diane Pilinski

Choral Response

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Unison Prayer

God of joy, fill us with the light of your presence. Open our eyes to the grace around us and the hope within us. By your Spirit, dwell in us and renew our hearts, that we may rejoice in your coming. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

1) Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

2) He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

3) Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Lori Duck

Gracious God, You are near to us — nearer than our breath — yet we confess how easily we forget. We rush, we worry, we carry our burdens alone, as if You were far away or uninterested. Forgive us when we ignore Your presence and lose sight of the joy You offer. Forgive us for the ways we close our hearts to Your comfort, Your guidance, and Your love. Come to us again, O God. Awaken us to Your nearness, that we may wait with joy, trusting that we are never alone. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen

The Act of Offering

Offertory

In That Great Gettin' Up Morning

arr. Mazur

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Word of God Proclaimed

Children's Time

Brian Mitchell

***Hymn of Preparation**

Come Down, O Love Divine

1) Come down, O Love Divine;
seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear,

and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2) O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3) And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace,
till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Troupers Play

Theme: Joy

written by Aidan Mitchell

Scripture

Zephaniah 3:14-20 and John 1:6-9, 14-15, 19-34

Sermon

As We Wait, God is With Us

Rev. Joy Laughridge

Response of God's People

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Commitment**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1) Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

2) Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3) Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

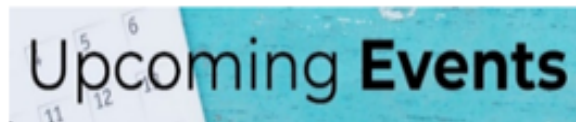
Blessing and Benediction

***Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue, Magnificat Primi Toni #1

Pachelbel



Upcoming Events

December 14, Sunday

- 11:00 am – Grace Patrol – Coleman Room

December 15, Monday

- 4:00 pm – Chair Yoga – Benz Hall
- 6:30 pm – BUNCO Night – Barbara Body's home

December 16, Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Session Meeting – Coleman Room
{Note the updated time}

December 17, Wednesday

- 1:15 pm – Bell Choir – Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm – Praise Band – Sanctuary
- 6:00 pm – Wed. Night Dinner –
Menu: Turkey Tetrizzini, Glazed carrots, Broccoli salad,
Gingerbread cake with lemon glaze | LPC Troupers - Celebrate Advent
\$6 per adult, children 6 and under, free
- 7:00 pm – Choir Practice - Sanctuary

December 19, Friday

- LPP last day before Christmas break
- 7:00 pm – Bold City Brass Christmas Concert
Free concert – Sanctuary – Bring friends!
- 8:00 pm – Reception – free – Benz Hall

December 20, Saturday

- 10:00 am – UCOM Breakfast with Santa – Photos, Breakfast, Toy Giveaway – Benz Hall
RSVP to Aidan Mitchell | aidan@ucomjax.org or call 904.396.2401
- 6:00 pm – LPC Youth Lock-In – Benz Hall

December 21, Sunday

- 10:00 am – Lessons & Carols Service – Sanctuary

December 22, Monday

- 9:00 am - Christmas VBS at Lakewood - Meet Bible Buddies and discover Jesus as our True North - Alaskan Adventure themed VBS for kids on winter break. RSVP at <https://vbspro.events/p/65073d> or contact Lenora Wilson 904.477.0855

Duty Elders for December

Lisa Wetzel
Diana Balow
Arnie Blevins

Liturgist:

Lori Duck

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Joy Laughridge

Director of Youth & Christian Education:

Brian Mitchell

Director of Music & Organist

Joshua L. Mazur

Parish Associate:

Rev. Vickie Bossuot

Attendance December 7, 2025

In Person: 89; 1st Time Visitors: 1 ; Online: 62

The poinsettias in the chancel are given by LPC members to honor or remember their loved ones..



Wednesday Night Dinner

December 17, 2025 @ 6pm
Benz Hall



Menu: Turkey Tetrazzini, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Salad,
Gingerbread Cake with Lemon Glaze
LPC Troupers Celebrate Advent
RSVP on Realm or call the church office
Cost: \$6.00 per meal
Kids under 6 eat free
Free Nursery provided for children 6 yrs & under
Call 904.733.8055 to reserve



Lakewood Presbyterian Music Series

Free Christmas Concert

Friday, December 19th
@ 7:00 pm
LPC Sanctuary



Enjoy the Sounds of the Season!

More Announcements, Next Page



Walking the Mourner's Path Workshop

January 22 to March 12, 2026 @ 6:30 pm

Register by January 1, 2026

email info@lpcjax.org or call

904.733.8055



Holiday Fund



UCOM Turkey Fund for the Holidays!

Each year, LPC's Outreach Ministry works with UCOM and a local grocery store to help provide **gifts cards** for deserving families in our community. Financial donations can be made through LPC by designating "Turkey Fund" on your check or envelope with your offering. In addition to gift cards, UCOM is seeking **food donations**.

Please donate: Instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, pie crust, cornbread, muffin, or biscuit mix, cans of yam, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, apple pie filling, and gravy mix. The fund will operate now through December, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Donations can be dropped off at UCOM, in the baskets in the Narthex, or in the church office. **Thank you for your generosity!**