

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 27, 2020

An Order of Worship to be followed in your home, along with our
worship video on your own
Preferably at 10:00am



Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship on this Sunday.

We are glad you're worshipping with us today.

At Lakewood Congregational Church, we strive to be people of extravagant welcome. Whether you are young or old, gay or straight, single or partnered, happy or sad, confused or inspired, street smart or college-educated, whether you can't pay your bills or you have more than enough to share—no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here in this place, to worship the God who welcomes us all.

When you begin your in-home worship service, pause to center yourself and then hold your palms towards the computer screen or to your heart and imagine the energy of connection. Think of many of the people you love at Lakewood Congregational Church and the Body of Christ throughout the world, and feel the ways in which our hearts are connected to yours.

Say, "May the Peace of Christ be with you"

Today is a fun service! We have special guest speakers and some extra special music. I wanted to let you know that our Covid-19 Advisory Team met recently and presented a plan to the Executive Team, which will be presented to the congregation by mail, email, and on our website in the coming days. We appreciate your patience as we wrestle with many complicated factors, but most importantly we thank you for opening your hearts and minds to see that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and that our church family longs to connect in new and meaningful ways.

Offering and Contribution Collection

Please consider fulfilling your pledges during this time. Financial gifts are always welcome, and our church feels the call to respond to the needs around us as they arise. Financial stability allows us to do so more effectively. So, let us give generously of our time, talent, treasure to further the work of God in our community. You can do so in the following ways:

- Writing and mailing a check to Lakewood Congregational Church, 1375 W. Clifton Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107
- Texting STEWARD to 44-321
- Sending a gift through your bank's online bill pay
- By using the donate button on the church's website www.lcc-church.org
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options

Prelude

"Joy to Be" by Citizens

Chris Burns, voice and guitar

Call & Response

A Poem by Martin Luther

Lindy and Audrey Warren

Feelings come and feelings go

And feelings are deceiving;

My warrant is the Word of God -

Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned

For want of some sweet token,

There is One greater than my heart

Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word

'Til soul and body sever,

For, though all things shall pass away

God's Word shall stand forever

Hymn

LCC Virtual Choir

Naomi Columna and Gwen Delaney, sopranos

Gwen Delaney, alto

Ben Liu and Michael Komperda, tenors

Noah Hamrick, Tim Hampton, and Robert Wenz, basses

O God of Life, Your Healing Touch

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music: Ben Malkevitch



1. O God of life, your heal - ing touch brings whole - ness and sal - va - tion!
2. O Christ whose Spi - rit bless - es all, you call us to our mis - sion,
3. Lord, by your Spi - rit, may we hear the truth of o - thers' sto - ries.



In you, this world you love — so much be - comes a new cre - a - tion.
serv - ing all those who need — your care, what - ev - er their con - di - tion.
May we re - spect their doubts and fears, their hopes and dreams and glo - ries.



Through Je - sus Christ you blessed the poor, un - leashed your gifts of heal - ing.
Let us seek out all those in need of me - di - cine and car - ing;
As we hear them, we heal our selves, we share in all your bless - ings.



You gave new sight, new strength, new life — to all, your love re - veal - ing.
as we all lend our help - ing hands to those who are de - spair - ing.
Ten - der - ness then will grace — our days, your gen - tle love ex - press - ing.

Pastoral Prayer

Holy One,

Many of us are Poor in Spirit these days. We struggle to find the richness of spirit when we've lost our routines and our traditions, and don't know the road that lies ahead. So today on the day we listen to the Beatitude, "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit" we simply ask you to open ourselves to the overflowing abundance of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit who guides us through the valleys of the

shadow of doubt. When we seek wisdom and understanding, it is your Spirit who sustains and nurtures us. It is your Spirit that gently cares for us; and with quiet peace comforts us. It is your Spirit that makes us aware of the simple Graces and the transformative power of prayer. It is your Spirit that is gentle like a butterfly when we need comfort and wild like a Goose when we need a challenge.

It is your Spirit that reminds us that even when we grieve, we do not grieve as others do who have no hope.

So God for all of your mercies, which are signs of your wisdom, we give you glory and thanks. We ask that you guide leaders of our nation and in the world, that we may grow in peaceful relations with one another, that those with power will use it for the welfare of all, and that they will take seriously the responsibility to care for your people. We ask that you strengthen all of us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, and to take the path of self-giving love for others.

Open us to see the ways in which it is that path of abiding love that grants us a richness in Spirit, and blesses us in return. We pray this in the name of the one who we follow, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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.

Invitation to the Offering

God gives to us continually. In each breath, we receive God's spirit. Responding to God's generosity, let us give to God in thanksgiving.

Dedication Prayer

We dedicate to you, generous God, our lives. Receive these offerings as a sign of our gratitude and commitment. Amen.

Special Music

Smile, by Charles Chaplin

Sung by the Warren Family

Scripture Reading, read by Claire Stair

Matthew 5:3

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Psalm 30:11-12

You changed my mourning into dancing.
You took off my funeral clothes
and dressed me up in joy
so that my whole being
might sing praises to you and never stop.
Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Message; a few God Moments!

Julie Warren, Jay Tamilio, Jen Parker, Emma Petrie-Barcelona

Benediction

Our worship has ended, but its gifts remain:
Tuck its praise inside you
Take its goodness with you.

And may the blessing of God, our life,
The friendship of Christ, our healer,
And the daring of the Spirit, our truth,
Be ours today, and every day to come.
Amen.

Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy by Gary Norian

Ben Malkevitch, piano