

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, June 6, 2021



Welcome and Announcements

If you are new among us, welcome. Please know we are glad you're here; you're welcome in our remote community and you're welcome in our physical community when the time is right.

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 a loving God who welcomes us all. As I stand in this sanctuary I join my heart with you and I pray that you might feel the refuge of this space.

May the Peace of Christ be with you. Let us worship God.

An Order of Worship to be followed in your home, along with our Livestream Service at 10:00am

Prelude

Stephen Schwartz

“Beautiful City” from *Godspell*

Skye Crone, Noah Hamrick, Jay Tamilio, Lindy Warren,
Sarah Whitkofski, vocals
Michael Komperda, piano

Call to Worship (from Psalm 138)

Leader: Come, let us worship our God with joy and
thanksgiving: Everything in us says

People: Thank you!

Leader: At worship in this sacred place we say it again:

People: Thank you!

Leader: For your love, for your faithfulness;

People: Thank you!

Leader: When earth’s rulers hear what you have to say, O GOD,
They’ll sing of what you’ve done:

People: How great the glory of GOD!

Leader: Finish what you started in us, GOD. Your love is
eternal-stay with us, now, that we may say

People: Thank you!

Opening Hymn

560

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

O Lord, Stretch our hearts and minds to consider what we might do and say to praise you from sunrise to sunset. Make this a time to reflect upon the ordinary ways that we praise you. Make this a time to imagine what more we can do and what we never realized was an act of praise. This we pray in your holy name, Amen.

Graduates are Honored

Rachel Daso	Tim Einhouse
Jane Mechenbier	Amelia Richardson
Evan Suttell	Max Toms-Snodgrass

Lillian May Germaine	Katherine (Rin) Kramer
Katrina Raynes	Jack Sheldon
Gabby Toms	Thomas Tamilio

Time for Prayer

The 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.

The Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

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)

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Darren Toms

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

The Story Remembered

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion will be shared in the pews. All are welcome to participate

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our hands and our hearts. May this bread give us courage to speak in faith and act in love in your precious world, and may this cup deeply renew our covenant with all life. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us live your compassion in the days to come. Amen

Communion Hymn

393

One Bread, One Body

Benediction

Postlude

Bill Withers

Lean on Me

Julie Warren and Chris Burns, vocals

Chris Burns, guitar

Shawn Warren, bass

Ben Malkevitch, piano

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

Our Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.

*We strive to be a welcoming,
worshipping 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.

*We welcome people of all sexual orientation,
ages, differing abilities, and ethnic, economic,
and racial backgrounds into
the full life and ministry of our church.*

*We declare this in the name of the Still Speaking God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, welcomed
all people into God's circle of grace.*

