

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 29, 2021



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

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.



*The flowers on the altar
are dedicated to the
Glory of God
in honor of the
ordination anniversary
Reverend Joanna D'Agostino*

Prelude

arr. Gary Lanier

Just When I Need Him Most

Michael Komperda, clarinet; Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship

One: Every generous act of giving is a tribute to God's love for us.

Many: Let us be people of generous and abundant gifts for others.

One: Be ready to listen and slow to react in anger.

Many: God, prepare us to be peaceful people.

One: Keep your hearts and spirits ready to serve the Lord.

Many: God, open our hearts to hear and respond to your words of life in ministries of hope and peace. AMEN.

Prayer of Invocation

Creator God, You have loved us passionately into being. We come today seeking your presence and to know we are your beloved!. Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts that we may look into your loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us. Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love as we gather as your Beloved Community. Amen.

Opening Hymn

599

Day by Day

A Time of 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.

A 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)

Let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings, and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten, and the hurting of our world, that our gifts might become nourishment for those whose lives are so empty. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Jan Young

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

494

They'll Know We Are Christians

Postlude

arr. Gary Lanier

He Lifted Me

Michael Komperda, clarinet; Ben Malkevitch, piano

LCC EVENTS: August 29 - September 5

- Sunday, August 29, 10:00am: Worship with Coffee Hour
- Thursday, September 2, Community Meal: 4:30pm (volunteers), 5:30pm (meal)
- Thursday, September 2, 7:30pm: AA
- Sunday, September 5, 10:00am: Worship with Coffee Hour

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, and 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

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.