

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 12, 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.

Prelude

Giuseppe Torelli

Sonata in D, final movement

Stephen Stavnicky, trumpet

Call to Worship

We will divide between East and West for our Call to Worship today. For those of you in the center section, just choose a side and stick with it! For those of you at home, you can do both sides, or no sides, or split your living room in half.

One: God, whom we gather to worship,

East Side: *has blessed us through our wonderful
Sunday School volunteers;*

West Side: **has comforted us through tender
ministries of loving circles;**

East Side: *has challenged us through our youth
fellowship and service;*

West Side: **has inspired us through choir participation
and musicians;**

East Side: *has led us through insightful church
leadership~*

All: Come, let us worship God, in thanks and praise.

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

With great joy we gather together today, O God; to see our church family and explore the possibilities in store for us. On Rally Sunday we ask that you draw us back in if we have drifted away: Draw us back to you, draw us back to our church, and draw us back to the person you are calling us to be. Calm the chaos in our lives. Encourage us to set goals, to find structure and to center our lives on you. May our year be filled with rooted and generative Grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn

16

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

FF Leader Commissioning

Rachel Burns

PreK/K: Amy Lardi and Evelyn Richards, Laura and Nora
Germaine

1st-3rd: Melissa Armstrong-Brine and Bri Raynes,
Charlotte Petrie and Julie Marlin

4th-5th: Paul Pierce

6th-8th: Scott Suttell

4th-5th/6th-8th Monthly Sub: Paige Smigelski

9th-12th: Becky Machovec and Chris Burns

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.

Prayer Response

Bill Wolaver

Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer

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)

With reverence and awe for your ways, we offer our gifts for the work of love and justice, the work of healing, restoring and setting free in your holy name, God of our hearts. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Julie Warren

Psalm 1, a Living Psalm Written by Maria Mankin

The truly happy person
is forged from grief,
rises in righteous anger,
is not afraid to be a solitary voice
raised for what is right.

Instead of hiding from injustice
these persons race toward it, shielded
only by the love God extends to all.

They are like a tree replanted
every time its roots are torn asunder,
willing to share fruit from ice broken branches,
and let their leaves hover over those who have been scorched.
Whatever they do thrives with the grace
of God's hardworking community of "happy" people.

This is not true for oppressors.
They will be blown away by the breath of a multitude
proclaiming God's love for all people.

They may choose a path of hatred,
but just as God sees and strengthens
the hearts of the righteous, so too
will those transgressions be unwound,
and laid out before God.

The truly happy person
is not the judge of wickedness
but the destroyer of it,
a bringer of peace
and of revolution.

Anthem

LCC Chancel Choir

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Rooted and Generative

Closing Hymn

687

In Christ There Is No East or West

Benediction

Postlude

Johann Neruda

Trumpet Concerto in Eb, Mvt. 3

Stephen Stavnicky, trumpet

LCC EVENTS: September 13 - 18

- Monday, September 13, 7:00pm: AA
- Monday, September 13, 7:30pm: Prayer Shawl Knitting Group, LCC Parlor
- Tuesday, September 14, 6:30pm: Friend's Circle at Clifton Beach (RSVP to Susan Walker)
- 7:00pm: Building Committee, LCC Parlor
- Wednesday, September 15, 7:00pm: Welcome Team Meeting, LCC Parlor
- Thursday, September 16, 12:30pm: Adventures in Reading, LCC Parlor
- Thursday, September 16, 7:30pm: AA

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.*