

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 19, 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

Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Hayes

I Want to Walk As the Child of a Light

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship (in unison)

One: Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

Many: **Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

One: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

Many: **Whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

One: We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world, we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

Many: **May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

One: Will all the children present please lift up your voices so we can hear you? Say your name and say "Hello!"

Children: **[Say their names and "hello"; a happy chaos moment!]**

All: **Welcome, children!**

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Dear God, Jesus has called us to welcome children as a way to welcome you. Guide us in your way of humility and service; show us how to become disciples of Jesus Christ, your Child and our brother. We ask for blessings on all your children of all ages in this hour as we gather to worship you. Amen.

Opening Hymn

344

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

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

Create in Me

519

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)

O God, you who have given us life, you who have made every child a holy child, we give you thanks. May our open hearts and generosity be a gift to you and your church, for the sake of children near and far. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Darren Toms

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Anthem

Bob Chilcott

Just As I Am

LCC Chancel Choir; Ben Malkevitch, organ

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

608

I Would Be True

Benediction

Postlude

Arcangelo Corelli, arr. Norris

Allemanda from Concerto Grosso no. 10

Ben Malkevitch, organ

LCC EVENTS: September 19 - 26

- Sunday, September 19, 10:00am: Worship, Faith Formation Classes, Bible Presentation, Coffee Hour
- Monday, September 20, 7:00pm: AA
- Monday, September 20, 7:00pm: Executive Team Meeting
- Thursday, September 24, 7:30pm: AA
- 6:45pm: Handbell rehearsal
- 8:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sunday, September 26, Worship, Faith Formation, Coffee Hour

Upcoming Events:

- THURSDAY, September 30
Handbells/Choir Rehearsal, 6:45pm & 8:45pm, Sanctuary
AA Meeting, 7:30pm, Social Hall
- THURSDAY, October 7
Community Meal Volunteers (4:30pm), Meal (5:30pm)
Handbells/Choir Rehearsal, 6:45pm & 8:45pm, Sanctuary
AA, 7:30pm Social Hall
- SATURDAY, October 9, Second Saturday, 9:00am
- SUNDAY, October 10, Confirmation Sunday
- Wednesday, October 13, Adventures in Reading, 12:30pm
LCC Parlor
- SUNDAY, October 17, New Member Sunday, Email the office at lccstaff@lcc-church.org and Vicki Smigelski will contact you with more information

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.*