

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 31, 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

Gabriel Fauré, arr. Douglas Wagner

Pavane

LCC Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

One: The Holy One is here in this community of faith:
Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!
One: Let us bless the Holy Name forever and ever.
Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!
One: Let us meditate on God's wondrous works.
Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!
One: Let us bless and praise God's name forever and ever.
All: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with your people - our neighbors - to worship you. Help us to respond to the call of love, so we can love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. Transform us from individualism into members of your one body. Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation to follow the path of love. Amen.

Opening Hymn

53

Morning Has Broken

Anthem

David Schwoebel

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Faith Formation

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

Malkevitch

Thanks Be to God

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)

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Patti Komperda

Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living,

she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”

But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.”

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

Closing Hymn

601

I Am Thine, O Lord

Benediction

Postlude

Donald Fishel, arr. Sondra Tucker

Alleluia, Give Thanks

LCC Handbell Choir

Joey Daso, Paula Deal, Noah Hamrick, Michael Komperda,
Val Mechenbier, Leah Molinari, Cathy Spicer, Bob Paraska,
Susan Walker, Robert Wenz, Jan Young

LCC Events: October 31 - November 7

- ***Sunday, October 31, Worship, Faith Formation, Coffee Hour***
- ***Monday, November 1, 7:00pm: AA***
 - *7:00 pm Rocky River Chamber Music Board Meeting, Parlor*
- ***Wednesday, November 3, 7:30pm Pub Theology, Lakewood Truck Park***
- ***Thursday, November 4, LCC Community Meal (4:30pm Volunteers, 5:30pm Meal)***
 - *7:30pm: AA*
 - *6:45pm: Handbell rehearsal*
 - *8:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal*
- ***Saturday, November 6: 1:00pm-3:00pm: Meet and Greet: Reverend Catherine Lawrence***
- ***Sunday, November 7, Worship for All Ages, All Saint’s Service, Coffee Hour***
 - *11:15am: Next Generation Band Rehearsal*

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.



“Happy are those whose delight is in the wisdom of God. They are like trees planted by streams of water: resilient, resourceful, generative.”

Psalm 1:3



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