

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 14, 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.

LCC Events: November 14 - November 21

- **Sunday, November 14, Worship, Faith Formation**
 - Coffee Hour
 - Photo Wall Picture Day
 - Building Tour (after Worship)
 - Winfield Planned Giving Meeting, Social Hall
 - 11:15am: Next Generation Band
- **Monday, November 15, 7:00pm: AA**
 - 7:00pm: Executive Team Meeting
 - 7:30pm: Rocky River Chamber Music Concert, Sanctuary
- **Wednesday, November 17, 7:30pm Pub Theology, Lakewood Truck Park**
- **Thursday, November 18, 7:30pm: AA**
 - 6:45pm: Handbell rehearsal
 - 8:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal
- **Friday, November 19, Haynes Lunch Bunch**
- **Saturday, November 20, 10:00am Trinity Pantry/Meal**
- **Sunday, November 21, Worship, Faith Formation**
 - Coffee Hour
 - 4:00pm: Y-Haven Production

Stewardship Moment

Mike Galloway

Prelude

Matisyahu

One Day

Next Generation Band

Vocals: Edie Barcelona, Joe Daso, Bridget Katzenberger, Evelyn Lardi. Instruments: Evelyn Lardi, ukulele, Nate Lardi, guitar, Edie Barcelona, keyboard, Joe Daso, drums.

Call to Worship (based upon Hebrews 10:22-25)

One: Come into this time of worship by the new and living way in Christ Jesus.

Many: **We come with true hearts in full assurance of our faith.**

One: Come with joyful expectation.

Many: **We gather in full confidence of the gospel's promise.**

One: Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit,

Many: **That we may encourage and support each other to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be God's instruments of grace.**

Opening Hymn

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O God of Vision

Prayer of Invocation

In you, O God, we find refuge from our turbulent world. We work each day to bear witness to your justice. While the journey is long, our incremental steps continue to take us closer to a world of grace and peace. Renew in us the strength, faith, and courage we need to persevere towards the promised day when your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Anthem

John Rutter

For the Beauty of the Earth

LCC Chancel Choir

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

Amen

John Stainer

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)

We return a portion of what we have received from you, O God, in gratitude for all that you have bestowed upon us. Bless this offering. Grant that it may continue to sustain and support the ministries of this church to bring the light of Christ into this community and the world beyond. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Darren Toms

A Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 1

Genealogies are important. This story is about Elkanah. But before Elkanah there was Jeroham, Elihu, Tohu, and Zuph. Elkanah had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah couldn't.

Once a year, Elkanah and his wives went up to the temple in Shiloh to offer a sacrifice to God in gratitude for standing on the side of the Israelites. The priests there were Hophni and Phinehas (troublemakers, but that doesn't matter much for this story). Their father was a priest too: Eli, who matters a lot for this story.

In Shiloh, Elkanah always shared the sacrificial meal with his two wives, plus Peninnah's kids, but to show Hannah he loved her more, he served her extra food. (Maybe he didn't know that when you have two wives, favoritism causes drama). Peninnah treated Hannah like a rival, teasing her about her infertility and convincing her that God chose to make her childless.

Every year, they went to Shiloh. Every year, Hannah's womb was empty. Every year, Hannah was too sad to eat.

Finally, Elkanah got the hint and asked, "Hannah, what's wrong? Aren't you hungry? Isn't being married to me better than having ten baby boys?" She was still sad, but she tried to be grateful for his love. So she ate.

With a full stomach but an empty womb, Hannah slipped away to pray. Eli, the priest, watched her pour her inconsolable bitterness out to God. Through her tears, she begged: "Look at me. I'm crushed. Don't ignore my prayers. Give me a son and he will be to your Glory. He will be Holy and pure and follow all the

rules. God, listen: if I can have a baby boy, I will grow his hair long and beautiful like the Nazirites."

Eli could see her but not hear her, and he didn't know her soul was crushed. He jumped to conclusions, assuming she was drunk and rambling on and on. So he said, "stop embarrassing yourself. Put away the wine and sober up." Hannah replied, "no no no no no-- I haven't had a drop to drink. I'm deeply, deeply sad, and turning to God."

Eli responded, "I hope you find peace, and God gives you what you're asking for." Filled with hope, she and Elkanah spent the evening together, worshiped God in the morning, and went home to Ramah. Before long, God knew it was time for their little boy. When Hannah held him for the first time she said, "Here you are. Our Samuel: the one I asked God for."

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

275

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Benediction

Postlude

Rex Koury

Variations on Regent Square
Ben Malkevitch, organ

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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