

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 28, 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
loving memory of Donald
Shultzaberger from Robert
Paraska

Prelude

Felix Borowski

Adoration

Tamara Reik, violin; Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship

One: Emmanuel! God with us!

Many: Incarnate one! Embodied one!

One: Crying one! Bleeding one!

Many: At-table one! Loving one!

One: Hand-in-the-wounds one!

Many: Signs-in-the-moon one!

One: Hear our plea!

Many: Come! Be here now.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

119

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope

Bryce and Liz Rizzo, with Baby Rafi

One: I light one candle here for hope and it is like a small lamp, lighting a bedside table with open book, after a long day, the glow of heart monitor in ICU, a headlamp for a hiker on an unfamiliar trail, or a miner down a shaft, a toddler's paw-patrol nightlight, or early-morning oven in a bakery.

Two: *We light one candle so we will remember to notice this week's ordinary lights of hope.*

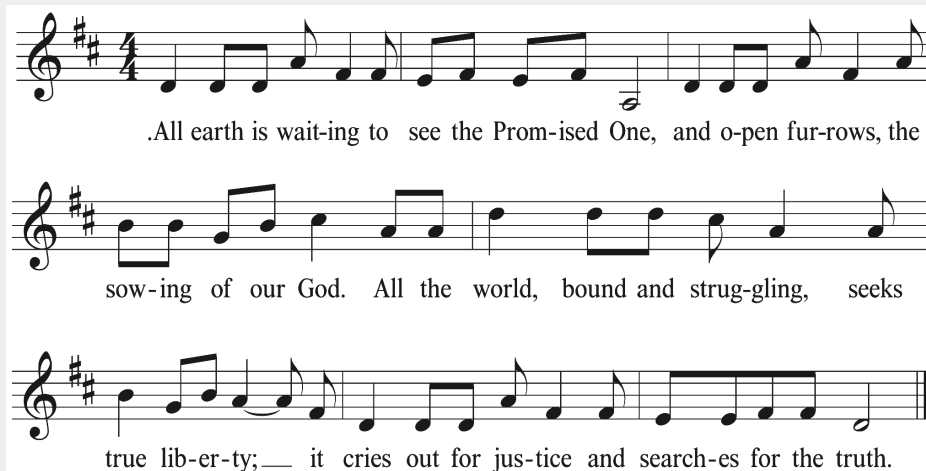
One: The hope of Advent is available to all.

Congregation:

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all year long. (Howard Thurman)



.All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One, and o-pen fur-rows, the
sow-ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug-gling, seeks
true lib-er-ty;— it cries out for jus-tice and search-es for the truth.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Rafael Henry Rizzo

Anthem

Ruth Elaine Schram

Bring Us Hope

LCC Chancel Choir

Tamara Reik, violin

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 *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* Taizé

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)

The day of redemption draws near for all who labor but do not eat, for all who are hated for how they love. For all who live with a sense of foreboding, wondering what injury will be inflicted on their bodies because of their bodies. We offer these gifts as a taste of the equitable world to come. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Paula Deal

Luke 21: 25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this

generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Reflection “Not so Fast” Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

Closing Hymn

122

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Benediction

Postlude

Kristina Langlois

People, Look East
Ben Malkevitch, organ

White Rose on the Altar

The white rose on the altar is in celebration of the baptism of Rafael Henry Rizzo, son of Bryce and Elizebeth Rizzo. His proud grandparents are Ruth and Louis Mendez and Brenda and Bruce Rizzo. His godparents are Jason and Maria Spirakus. Rafael was born on November 5, 2020.



“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



Lakewood
Congregational
Church

LCC Events: November 28 - December 5

- **Sunday, November 28: 10:00am, Worship, First Sunday in Advent with Baptism, Faith Formation, Coffee Hour**
 - 8:30am: Advent Core Group, Parlor
 - 11:00am: Holiday Decorating (meet in the Narthex after worship)
 - 2:00pm, Advent Core Group, Zoom
- **Monday, November 29: 7:00pm: AA**
- **Wednesday, December 1:**
 - 6:30pm: Cookie Decorating for Community Meal, All ages
 - 7:30pm: Pub Theology, Rush Inn
- **Thursday, December 2:**
 - Advent Core Group, 1:00pm, Parlor
 - LCC Community Meal (4:30pm Volunteers, 5:30pm Meal)
 - 7:30pm: AA
 - 6:45pm: Handbell rehearsal
 - 8:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal
- **Sunday, December 5, 10:00am: Worship for All Ages, Holy Communion, Second Sunday in Advent, Coffee Hour**
 - 8:30am: Advent Core Group, Parlor
 - 11:15am: Next Generation Band
 - 2:00pm: Advent Core Group, Zoom

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.

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