

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 14, 2022



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

traditional

This Little Light of Mine
Joey Daso, piano

Call to Worship

- One: In a world uprooted at every turn,
come, beloved of God, for replanting.
- Many: Our hope and weariness are mixed together,
yet we come, trusting ancient promises.**
- One: The Holy One, who led the people out of Egypt,
yearns to lead us, too.
- Many: God will not rest until all are rerooted,
restored, and renewed for rejoicing.**
- One: Let us be joined to God's song of justice,
bearing beauty into the life of the world.
- Many: May our lives be formed for faithfulness
by the One who is always faithful.**

Opening Hymn

In This Very Room

295

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Creator God, Embodiment of Love, we focus on praising you this morning. We dwell in your presence with joy and gratitude. Encircle us with inspiration to embrace unconditional love, so that we might reflect that same love into the world around us. May your Spirit lead us in new directions to love you and one another in new ways. Amen.

Anthem

Larry Shackley

Built on the Rock
LCC Summer Choir

Back to School Blessing

Rachel Burns

We celebrate the beginning of the school year and ask for God's blessing upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them. Students, teachers, educators, and school staff of all ages are welcome to come forward to receive a back-to-school blessing and pin for their backpacks. Those who are worshipping with us remotely are encouraged to go get your backpacks now to receive the blessing with us. Pins are also available for anyone who is not present today.

A Time of Prayer

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.

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

traditional

For the Beauty of the Earth
Joey Daso, piano

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)

In a spirit of appreciation, we dedicate the gifts of time, talent and treasure to you, O God. Through our contributions, we seek to grow in our relationship with you and our neighbor. Give us the courage to use these gifts for the building up of your Kingdom. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Hebrews 11:29–12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

What Have We Witnessed?

Closing Hymn

618

How Firm a Foundation

Benediction

Postlude

John Turner

Go In Peace

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Our Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.

*We strive to be a welcoming,
worshiping 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. Wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church. We declare this in the everlasting grace of the Still-Speaking God.

Offering and Contribution Collection

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

