

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, August 7, 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

*Passport to Peace*

LCC's Vacation Bible School Chorus

Led by Lindy Warren

## Call to Worship

One: Our Creator resides in the midst of creation...  
calling us to this community.

**Many: Our world waits for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: God our Righteousness gazes upon the beloved  
with delight and concern.

**Many: Our bodies wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: The Spirit of the Living God greets us  
with fresh winds and new mercies.

**Many: Our souls wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

## Opening Hymn

# 622

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Abundant God, we wait for you with longing, hope, and anticipation. May your kingdom be realized in this community. May your people be your ambassadors. May your love be our propeller in the world and our beacon to direct us home. Fill us with the bread of life and nourish our spirits to be your good news in the world. Amen.

## Special Music

Carole King

*You've Got a Friend*  
The Warren Family

## 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

### 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)

Generous One, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your treasure to the use of your kingdom. May your will be manifested and your creation restored through sharing these offerings. Amen.

## The Reading of God's Word

Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

*"They Desire a Better Country"*

## Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Remembrance

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: In thanksgiving for a meal that heals yesterday and empowers tomorrow, we pray ...

**All: O Holy One, as we receive this sacrament, may we find the energy to work towards love and justice, compassion and courage, in every corner of every city for all of your children who need a meal of hope and healing. Thank you for the sustenance and the call. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

# 399

*O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Jane Hopkins

*Recessional*

Ben Malkevitch, organ

## ***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](http://www.lcc-church.org)
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options

