

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, August 28, 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.

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## Prelude

Hillsong

*Oceans*

Chris Burns, voice and guitar

## Call to Worship

- One: Sing aloud to God our strength and shout with joy as we celebrate the awesome blessings of this day:
- Many: God, our Host, welcomes us.**
- One: God reminds us, "I brought you out of the land of Egypt and fed you along the way."
- Many: When we opened our mouths, God filled us with good things.**
- One: God calls us to walk the path of faithfulness, trusting the promise:
- Many: A feast and celebration for all – freshly-baked bread, hot from the oven, and sweet honey to satisfy our hunger. Let us worship God!**

## Opening Hymn

# 452

*Here I Am, Lord*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Hospitable God, you welcome us to this celebratory worship where the last may be first, and the humble and the mighty trade places. Let us share your abundance with no fear of scarcity; let us greet strangers as angels you have sent! Send your Spirit now so that all may find renewal and a place at your table welcoming others with radical hospitality. In the name of Jesus, Guest at all our tables we pray. Amen.

## Tenth Ordination Anniversary Recognition

### Association Representative

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister,  
Living Water Association, ONE (Ohio NorthEast)

### Presentation and Dedication of Baptismal Font

Bill Fraunfelder, chair, LCC Executive Team  
*Presentation of Baptismal Font*

## Anthem

Ben Malkevitch

*Take, O Take Me As I Am*  
LCC Summer Choir

## 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)

**Dear God, you have offered us a place at the table and you have called us to share without expectation of being repaid. You have called us to make a place for the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. So we ask that you bless these resources so that they might support ministries of compassion and justice until all of your children have a place at the table. Amen.**

## The Reading of God's Word

Maic D'Agostino

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

## Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

## Special Music

Maic D'Agostino

## Liturgy of Renewal

**All: Creator God, we have heard your voice calling us, through ancient prophets stirring our souls, and making us restless with the world. We stand here, your servants, preparing ourselves, to renew our commitment to faithfully live as your community, to travel through deep waters, and into the world.**

**One:** Blessing this sacred font, we go down as Jesus did into the waters of creation, we know your call to renewal and abiding promise is alive within us: you strengthen us, you envision us to be more than what we are, you call us by name.

Now you journey with us, in us, before us, into the world.

**All: We rise renewed, blessed by the hand of heaven, newly alive to your peace, with a passion for justice alive in our souls, and in every breath, the possibility of love. We rise from the Waters, committed as servants of the Gospel, dedicated to the realm of love. Amen\***

*During the postlude, all are invited to come forward, ponder their renewal, and choose a stone from the font as an act of remembrance.*

## Closing Hymn

# 458

*Ours the Journey*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Lyndell Leatherman

*Life's Railway to Heaven*

Ben Malkevitch, piano

All are welcome to gather in the parlor for cake and refreshments and to greet and congratulate Rev. Joanna.

## Gifts:

The flowers on the altar are a gift from Christ United Church in Berea

## Baptismal Font Artists

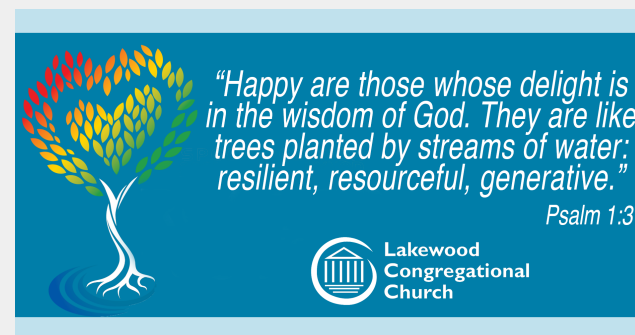
Glass Artist: *Skip Streeter, Streets Of Manhattan Studios*

Woodworker: *John Scanlan, Scanlan Furniture Design and Woodworking*

## Gift of Gratitude

Quilting Artist, Val Mechenbier will create a stole with creative input from Rev. Joanna in its design to commemorate this anniversary.

*\*Wendy Shindler Chasney, Pastor of St. John's UCC, Milan, OH  
(adapted)*



***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