

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 2, 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

J.S. Bach

Prelude from Suite no. 1 in G
Anna Bowman, cello

Call to Worship

One: Increase our faith!

Many: Let our worship uncover clearer understandings of you.

One: Increase our trust!

Many: Let our worship unearth stronger connections to you.

One: Increase our hope!

Many: Let our worship unleash fresher possibilities from you.

Opening Hymn

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Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Meet us here with all our questions and insecurities. Challenge our knowledge and certainties. Transform our beliefs and perceptions. Influence our commitments and actions. Amen.

Anthem

arr. Molly Ijames

Glad Adoration
LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation Presentation of Bibles

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.

Prayer Response

Scottish Psalter

Thou Wilt Keep Them in Perfect Peace

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

J.S. Bach

Sarabande from Suite no. 1 in G
Anna Bowman, cello

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 thank you for these gifts of money, time, and selves that we cheerfully give to you, Multiplying God. Expand and bless every single one in service to you and the work you've called us to do. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Darren Toms

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

Service of Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion, no matter who you are and where you are on life's journey.

Invitation

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

Many: God scatters life about the planet.

One: God scatters people across the globe.

Many: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

Many: God gathers people in families.

One: God gathers people in communities.

Many: God gathers people in the Church of Jesus Christ.

One God gathers us at this table to refresh our bodies and renew our spirits. God gathers us here on this World Communion Sunday in company with our siblings throughout the Church, across the bounds of language or nation, across the bounds of tradition or custom. God gathers us in many “heres”... in Ohio, Arizona, and Florida, in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, in China and Nepal, in Micronesia and in France... beneath tall New England steeples, in the rubble remains of a church after a hurricane, and on two corners of the intersection of W. Clifton and Detroit. God gathers us at this table to recall the cost of faith and to celebrate the richness of Christ’s gifts showered upon the world.

Let us pray: Creator of the Universe, Creator of the Indian Ocean and Lake Erie, Creator of Korean cherry blossoms and autumn leaves, we praise you for the life you have given us and all living things around us! From among the seeds you scattered, you gathered the people of Israel, giving to them your love and your guidance, your law and your prophets. In the fullness of time, you came to us in Jesus of Nazareth, child of Mary and the Promised One of Israel. We honor his teachings, we weep at his sacrifice, and we rejoice at his resurrection in glory.

Words of Institution

The story goes that when the stubborn forces of evil conspired to bring his life to an end, he called his followers together and took the bread, broke it, and said:

“Take, eat, this is my body broken for you.”

Then he passed the cup and invited them,

“Drink from this, it is the cup of the New Covenant. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Now on this day, his followers all around the world, including us, are gathering at the table to remember and share.

Prayer of Consecration

With angels and archangels, with our ancestors in faith, with our siblings here and with our fellow disciples in the United Church of Christ and all other manifestations of your church, we ask your blessing on the meal we are about to share. May these gifts of bread and wine strengthen us to be the gathered and scattered Body of Christ on earth, many in creative possibilities and one in spirit, one in truth, one in faith, one in love. Gather your scattered seeds into your home, as we see it dimly here and as you manifest it in your realm of grace and peace.

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

Felix Mendelssohn

On Wings of Song

Anna Bowman, cello

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of your table. We thank you for your gift of growth in this life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in all the planting zones of today and throughout your creation’s history. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world...renewed, invigorated, and committed, that so nourished we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe and comfort, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Closing Hymn

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Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Benediction

One: Whatever joys and challenges you face in the week ahead,
remember: God formed you and knows you.

All: God formed me and knows me.

One: God calls you and sends you.

All: God calls me and sends me.

One: Do not be afraid, because God is with you.

All: I will not be afraid, because God is with me. Amen.

Postlude

Felix Mendelssohn

Spinning Song

Anna Bowman, cello
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