

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 18, 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

arr. Mark Hayes

There Is a Balm in Gilead
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship

One: Divine Parent, you feel what we feel.

Many: Our joys and our pains are yours too.

One: Divine Healer, you delight in our wholeness.

Many: You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.

One: Giver of life, you are able to renew us.

Many: We open ourselves to you; have your way within us.

Opening Hymn

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

#337

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Divine Nurturer, we rejoice in knowing you walk with us whether the road is rough or smooth. You are steadfast. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so we may be a balm of hope when none can be found. Amen.

Litany of Farewell for Sandie King

(in unison, when prompted): O God, we give thanks for the times when we, together, have shared the life of faith: in worship, in learning, in discernment, and in service; through laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. We pray that Sandie will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as she moves to new and unknown places, in the name of Jesus. Amen

Anthem

Karen Crane, arr. J.B. Taylor

Come to Me

LCC Chancel Choir

FF Leader Commissioning

Rachel Burns

PreK/K: Laura and Nora Germaine, Amy Lardi, Evelyn Richards

1st-3rd: Caitlin Galloway, Julie Marlin, Bri Raynes

4th-5th: Paul Pierce

6th-8th: Scott Suttell

9th-12th: Chris Burns, Becky Machovec

Faith Formation

All youth (preK-8th grade) are welcome to join in today's Faith Formation classes. Rachel and the leaders will guide them to their classrooms.

Children can be picked up there after worship.

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

Wolaver

Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Alan Ridout

Invocation

Ben Malkevitch, organ

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)

Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them.

Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a balm of justice. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Paula Deal

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people

from far and wide in the land:
'Is the Lord not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?'
(‘Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?’)
'The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.'

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

When Tears are Healing

Closing Hymn

501

There is a Balm in Gilead

Benediction

Postlude

Christopher Tambling

Nun danket alle Gott
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
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options