

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 23, 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

Kristene DiMarco

It Is Well

Chris Burns, voice and guitar

Call to Worship

One: Praise God! For God is gathering people together.

Many: **From near and far we come together – the wounded and the whole, the weak and the strong – seeking God's presence, God's forgiveness, and God's direction for our lives.**

Opening Hymn

Spirit

#249

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God our Redeemer, draw near to us as we draw near to you in worship. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, and our spirits to encounter the revelation you have for us this day. Transform us with the truth of your love and grace, in the name of the one in whose way we walk. Amen.

Anthem

Felix Mendelssohn

“How Lovely Are the Messengers” from *St. Paul*

LCC Chancel 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.

Prayer Response

Harold Friedell

Day by Day

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

arr. Ron Mallory

Shall We Gather at the River

LCC Handbell Choir

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)

God, our refuge and fortress, our deliverer and protector, we thank you for hearing our call. Bless now these gifts that we offer back to you – the gifts of our resources, the gifts of our hearts. Use these gifts so that others may come to know healing. Amen.

The Reading of God’s Word

Patti Komperda

Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Then afterwards

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

#595

Be Thou My Vision

Benediction

Postlude

Robin Benton

Allegro Festivo!

LCC Handbell Choir

Paula Deal, Kay Galloway, Audrey Hancock, Michael Komperda,
Valerie Mechenbier, Bob Paraska, Peggy Shaw, Jan C. Snow,
Cathy Spicer, Susan Walker, Robert Wenz, Carol Wilson, Jan Young

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