

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 27, 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

G.F. Handel

Pastorale from *The Messiah*

Alex Piepenbrink, oboe; Ben Malkevitch, organ

Advent Candle Lighting: Hope

- One: God of justice and of peace –
You color the world with mercy and kindness.
- Two: We stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous artistry.
- One: God of promise and love –
You illuminate the skies with rainbow and sun-ray.
- Two: We rejoice in the majesty of your creation.
- One: The spectrum of your love reveals light all around. The hues of your love warm our spirits. The vibrancy of your love saturates us with hope.
- Two: Blessed is the God of love, whose art expressed in Christ we anticipate.
- One: We light this candle in abundant hope that the radiance of you, O God, will shine in our hearts, coloring us with hope, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.
- Two: We who wait on the Lord are filled with hope.

Sung Response: *One Candle Is Lit*, Hymn # 128.

Call to Worship

One: All around us, days shorten and nights lengthen, but we are told that the night is almost over, and a light is drawing near.

Many: We wait on God's light together.

One: Chaos surrounds us as the business of the season approaches, but we are called along pathways of peace.

Many: We wait on God's peace together.

One: In this season of friends and family, we dearly miss the faces that are absent this year.

Many: We wait on God's comfort together.

One: Though the world can seem dark and chaotic both within and without, we are told that God will build a house among us.

Many: We wait on God's presence together.

Opening Hymn

119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Unknowable God, you come to make yourself known to us in loving relationship. You come with a message of peace and comfort for those who are hurting and those who are tired. As you did centuries ago, be with us again today as we seek to learn from you and from one another. In the name of your Child, Jesus Christ, who walked among us. Amen.

Anthem

Pepper Choplin

Star of Advent
LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation

All youth (preK—12th 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

Malkevitch

As We Await Your Light

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Robert Schumann

Romance no. 1

Alex Piepenbrink, oboe; Ben Malkevitch, piano

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 of hope and wonder, even surrounded by confusion and trouble, we look for you. Take these gifts and use them for acts of justice, peace, mercy and hope. Receive also the gifts of our time and our actions that are just as precious to you as silver and gold. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Maic D'Agostino

Matthew 24:36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

537

My Hope Is Built

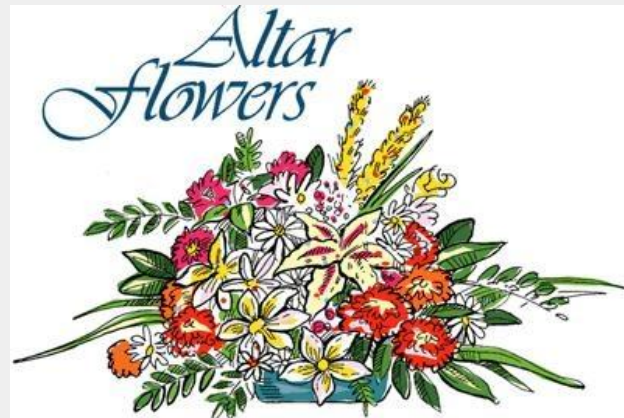
Benediction

Postlude

Paul Hindemith

Oboe Sonata, movement 1

Alex Piepenbrink, oboe; Ben Malkevitch, piano



*The flowers on the altar are dedicated
to the Glory of God
in loving memory of Donald Shultzaberger
from Robert Paraska*

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