

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 11, 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

William Finn

Infinite Joy

Jennifer Browning, alto

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy

Stephens Family

Leader: On the Third Advent Sunday, we light three candles, celebrating the community of faith, those we know and many we may never meet who turn their hearts to the manger story.

People: We light a candle of our deep hope and a candle for the peace we have learned from our close relationships, and a candle of sheer joy that God-with-us includes faithful people of all times and places.

Leader: In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminded us that many would come to table from east and west, north and south, to share a menu of joy.

People: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come. Bless our hopes, strengthen our peace, stir the embers of joy into a simple smile and the unexpected laughter of togetherness. Amen.

Sung Response

#128

One Candle Is Lit (verse 3)

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,

Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.

One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Call to Worship

One: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: We come today with eager hope, awaiting God's new revelation.

One: The mighty One has done great things! God's mercy covers generations.

All: We come today with ready peace, trusting with anticipation.

One: The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry, dwells with us.

All: We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.

Opening Hymn

2

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of Mary, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Rahab—

God of us all, your children here and your children afar—

We enter this moment of worship with eager anticipation.

We know that even before a child would come to lead the way, You were leading our way. From the valleys of the shadows of death to the tables in the presence of enemies, you have never left us nor forsaken us. You rod and your staff have guided us. Guide us now, O God. Make your presence known as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Anthem

Marc A. Robinson

Prepare Ye

LCC Chancel Choir

A Time of Prayer

The 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

As We Await Your Light

Malkevitch

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Michael Moody

Gentle Jesus

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)

We present to you, O God, our gifts. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of people where hope is scarce. May our gifts be a reminder, to those who receive them, of your love. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Michael Greenlan

Luke 1:46b-

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

125

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Benediction

Postlude

Robert Hobby

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Ben Malkevitch, organ

Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.

*We strive to be a welcoming,
worshipping 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.
We welcome people of all sexual orientation,
ages, differing abilities, and ethnic, economic,
and racial backgrounds into
the full life and ministry of our church.
We declare this in the name of the Still Speaking God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, welcomed
all people into God's circle of grace.*

Offering and Contribution Collection

Please consider fulfilling your pledges during this time. 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
- 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