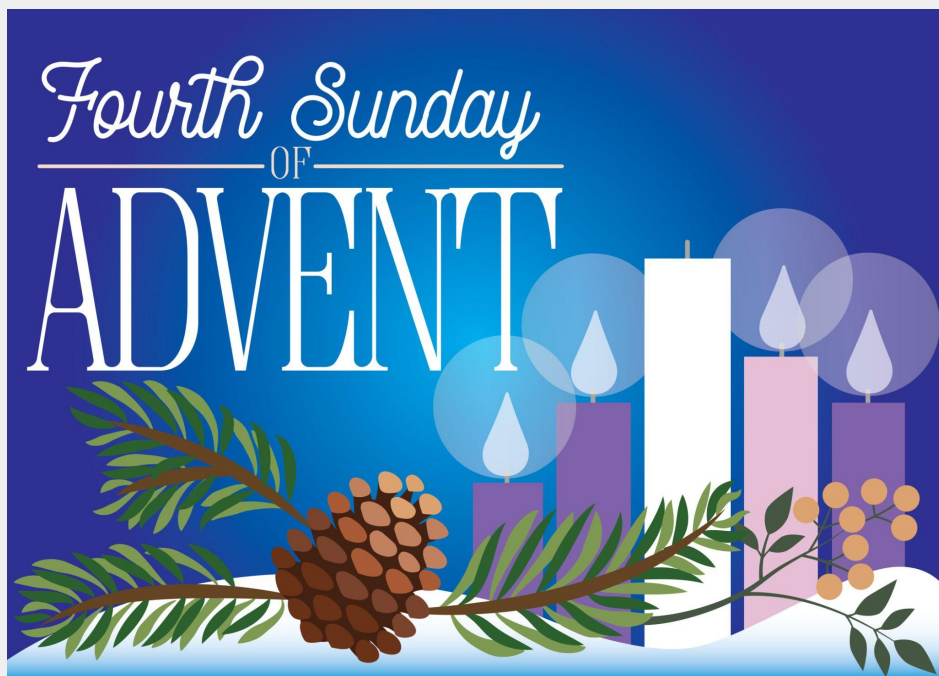


Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 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. Kevin McChesney

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
LCC Handbell Choir

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Love

Leader: On the Fourth Advent Sunday, we light four candles, so bright we see all the world around us – and feel, not crowded but amazingly loved.

People: We light a candle of deep hope (pause, light) peace shared, (pause and light) joy like fireworks of the heart (pause, light) and now a candle of love connecting all people, all creatures, earth, air, ocean wave, with the Story of a Bethlehem warming shelter and angel wings. (pause,light)

Leader: In the gospel of Luke, Jesus called children, welcomed the outcast and the guilty, celebrated those on the edges, and taught with parables of seed and stone.

People: Emmanuel, God be with us in the week to come lighting hope, peace, joy, and love on the wick of our lives, so that we may

all be known as windows for your unconditional welcome for all. Amen.

Sung Response

128

One Candle Is Lit (verse 4)
Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

Call to Worship

One: We come seeking a sign from You, the One who sits upon the throne.

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

One: We come seeking to worship You, the One who dwells with us always.

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

One: We come seeking to witness your might, a child to be born in a coming night.

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Opening Hymn

142

People, Look East

Prayer of Invocation

God of Love, Today we gather with hearts full of joy. Yet this season can also bring stress and anxiety. Many of us are busy making plans with family and friends while others struggle with loneliness. Free our hearts and minds of the worry, stress, and anxiety that takes our focus away from the coming of Christ. During this time of worship let your Spirit flow through this place and through our hearts. Amen.

Anthem

John Rutter

Ave Maria
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

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

Jane Grenville

A Love Divine
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 dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world so that all may know they are loved by God. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Ryan Gieger

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

God-With-Us

Closing Hymn

136

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

Benediction

Postlude

arr. Arnold Sherman

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LCC Handbell Choir

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

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
- 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

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.*