

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 25, 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

Calvin, arr. Hayes

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Kay Galloway, piano

Call to Worship

One: As the light from the Advent and Christ candles shine brightly, we celebrate new dreams born among us and a divine promise fulfilled.

Many: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace

One: The light of the Christ child gives way to peace, joy, and love

Many: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace

One: This light is a light for all, igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God—come alive in human flesh within us and among us now and always.

Many: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace.

Opening Hymn

155

Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

O Jesus- Christ and Redeemer, we greet this morning with gratitude. We lift our spirits with thanksgiving for all your mercies to us that your sharing of our human situation brings. We thank you for Christmas joy- for toys, and for friendships renewed, and for hearts warmed by the love of dear ones, and the greeting of strangers. We thank you for this Christian community which has become Bethlehem for us this day. In celebration, we ask you to transform our joy into wonder as we find ourselves and each other in the new life of Christ Jesus. Amen

Special Music

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Edie Barcelona, piano

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.

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Traditional, arr. Held

Shepherds (based on Bohemian Carol)

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)

Generous Creator God, we give thanks for the wonder, joy and beauty of this morning. May these gifts bring glory and honor to you as we celebrate the birth of your love come to live among us this day. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Special Music

lyrics, David Axelrod

from Christmas Eve on Sesame Street

Keep Christmas With You All Through the Year

Edie Barcelona, piano and vocals

Reflection

Rev. Catherine Lawrence

Living In Wonder

Closing Hymn

#164

Good Christians Friends Rejoice

Benediction

Postlude

traditional, arr. Held

Joy to the World

Kay Galloway

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

Our 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.