

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, December 4, 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.

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## Prelude

Giulio Bentivoglio, arr. Lisa L. Ochoco

*Ave Maria*

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

## Advent Candle Lighting: Peace

Ryan Walters

One: On the Second Advent Sunday, we light two candles. We come to this season with those precious to us, gifts of peace God has unwrapped in our lives – family or friend, near or distant, living or remembered.

**Many: We light a candle of our deepest hopes (pause, light) and a candle for the peace we have learned from one or more whom we trust. (pause,light)**

One: Isaiah the prophet looks to a time when people who walk in uncertainty will hold hands and walk forward with God's starlight to guide.

**All: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come. Light a flame of hope and peace in our lives so we may shine all around us.**

**Amen**

**Sung Response: *One Candle Is Lit*, Hymn # 128, verse 2.**

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

**Call to Worship**

One: In this season of crowded stores and unpacked stress,

**Many: we will welcome one another as God has welcomed us.**

One: In this time of hurried hellos and curt replies,

**Many: we will greet one another with words of hope and peace.**

One: In a culture of increasing isolation,

**Many: we will embrace our sisters and brothers as God has enfolded us in grace.**

**Opening Hymn**

# 122

*Comfort, Comfort You My People*

**Prayer of Invocation** (in unison)

Holy One, may we trust in your promises as we welcome life's unfoldings, whatever they may bring. With openness, with faith, with knowledge of your Love that brings renewal, we strive to live with patient and active anticipation of your coming into the world. Amen.

**Anthem**

arr. Mack Wilberg

*How Far Is It To Bethlehem?*

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**

Malkevitch

*As We Await Your Light*

**A Time of Sharing**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

Austrian carol, arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

*Still, Still, Still*

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

**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)

**Renewing One, wherever there is heartbreak, wherever there is devastation, wherever there is loss, be near. Bring your abiding presence close to all who are dwelling in fields of despair. Bless these offerings to the work of your restoring justice and turn us from all that keeps us from doing right by another. Amen.**

## **The Reading of God's Word**

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## **Reflection**

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

Darren Toms

## **Service of Holy Communion**

*Everyone, no matter who you are and where you are in life's journey, is welcome to participate in this sacrament at LCC.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **Prayer of Remembrance and Consecration**

#### **Sharing of the Elements**

*Today we will receive Communion at the front of the sanctuary by coming forward by row. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive Communion, please signal to the ushers and they will come to you.*

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God. Through the shortened days of this season, may this sacrament encourage us to go forth in hope. Amen.**

#### **Closing Hymn**

# 677

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

featuring the Greater Cleveland Flute Society

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

Ukrainian carol, arr. Paul Edwards

*Carol of the Bells*

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

Rebecca Chen, Ann Droste, Bryan Kennard, Emily Matz,  
Linda Miller, Cathy Spicer, Bonnie Svetlik, Rae Yaeger

***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](http://www.lcc-church.org)
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options