

# Lakewood Congregational Church

***A Congregation of the United Church of Christ***

Sunday, January 15, 2023



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**

Christopher Grundy

*Let Me Be Your Light (Isaiah 49:6b)*

Jennifer Browning, alto

Ben Malkevitch, piano

## **Call to Worship**

One: There are no words for what this testimony means, only the wonder at how it feels like grace.

**Many: We celebrate the prophets and visionaries; in story and song, we awaken to the sound of one voice.**

One: There is no way to know what this following will take, only hope that it is leading us deeper into the heart of love.

**Many: We cherish the risk-takers and the tide-turners: in prayer and praise, we witness to the sound of voices two.**

One: There is no telling when the struggle will end, only the faith in a future we cannot yet behold.

**Many: We become the movement and the liberation: in worship and wrestling, we create the sound of all of us.**

## Opening Hymn

# 244

*Loving Spirit*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

**To the revelation and the wonder, open us. With the vision and the possibility, convict us. For the recognizing and the following, equip us. In the struggle and the seeking, be with us. Holy One, manifest your love, make your justice known, in us and among us. Amen.**

## Anthem

Getty and Townend, arr. Courtney

*Compassion Hymn*

LCC Chancel Choir

## Faith Formation

*All youth (Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> 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

Ken Medema

*God, Listen to Your Children Praying*

## A Time of Sharing

### Invitation to Generosity

There can be no flourishing for some of us without liberation for all of us. Our offering gives us the opportunity to invest in our collective

liberation. May our giving be a revelation of God's love, made known and being made known in our midst.

## Offertory

H. Leslie Adams

*An Offering of Love*

Ben Malkevitch, organ

H. Leslie Adams (1932-) is a Cleveland-based, Black composer, whose choral, operatic, art-song, and organ writing have gained well-deserved, national acclaim.

## 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)

**Holy One, use our gifts to empower us to lean into this reality and this calling more and more fully until we become the beloved community we are dreaming of. May it be so. Amen.**

## The Reading of God's Word

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

## Closing Hymn

# 683

*O For a World*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Spiritual, arr. David Kidwell

*Ride On, King Jesus*  
Ben Malkevitch, organ

## 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](http://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, 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.  
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.*