

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 22, 2023



An Order of Worship to be followed in your home,
along with our Livestream Service at 10:00 am

*The flowers on the altar are given
to the Glory of God in loving memory
of Robert Beyer from Dorothy Beyer*

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. Lloyd Larsen

Meditation on "Brother James' Air"
LCC Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

One: Our ever-present God dwells in the sanctuary and in homes, in public spaces and our interior lives.

Many: Behold the greatness of the Holy One in the expansiveness of these sacred spaces.

One: We seek God's face on Sunday mornings and evenings...and throughout the week.

Many: Live in the presence of the Holy One all the days of our lives.

One: We call out for God's grace, strength, and guidance.

Many: Seek the face of the Holy One. Recognize God's greatness.

Opening Hymn

337

Jesus Calls Us O'er Tumult

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us and the ways you connect us as a community. Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world. Thrill us with your majesty and inspire us with your humility. We rejoice in this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly, gathered across time and space as your people. We seek you. We're grateful to find you. Amen.

Anthem

Mark Hayes

And the Father Will Dance

LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation

All youth (Pre-K-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

Scottish Psalter

Thou Wilt Keep Them in Perfect Peace

A Time of Sharing

Invitation to Generosity

When Jesus calls his disciples, he promises to transform the gifts they already possess to be used for the glory and kingdom of God. Let us offer our resources in following Jesus.

Offertory

César Franck

Offertoire

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)

Great God, receive our gifts of ourselves and our resources for the benefit and building of the kingdom. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Darren Toms

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Reflection

Rev. Dave Long-Higgins

Who Me? Yes, You!

Closing Hymn

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I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Benediction

Postlude

Lee J. Afdahl

Beach Spring

LCC Handbell Choir

Audrey Hancock, Michael Komperda, Val Mechenbier,
Peggy Shaw, Jan C. Snow, Cathy Spicer, Susan Walker,
Robert Wenz, Carol Wilson, Jan Young

The Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins serves as the Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ serving the 323 UCC congregations in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia.

In that role, Dave has been called to strengthen the covenantal collaboration between congregations, associations, institutions of higher education, health and human service ministries, ecumenical and interfaith engagements, as well as partnerships local and global. Dave's passion is to see individuals and churches grow in their sense of the alive presence of God and all that this calls forth to be signs of Christ-love in the world, so that all may flourish.

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

LCC's 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.*