

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 29, 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.

Prelude

Marilyn Thompson

The Beatitudes

Jesse Bobbitt, soprano

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 15)

One: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

Many: Those who do justice. Those who confront inequities and uplift the oppressed.

One: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

Many: Those who love kindness. Those who love neighbor, friend and foe.

One: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

Many: Those who walk humbly with you. Those who follow your lead and answer your call.

Opening Hymn

75

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

Prayer of Invocation

Just and Loving God, we enter into your sacred spaces, in sanctuaries and in homes, in public gatherings and private places. You bridge time and space to forge us as a beloved community. You, O Sovereign, make plain the way of life for us. Encourage us to join your journey, to love your children and creation, and to contribute to your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Norton Ezra Voll

June Violet Voll

Hazel Valley Voll

Welcoming Song

Justin Roberts

Glad You're Here

Noah Hamrick, bass

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Reception of New Members

Nate and Mad McLaughlin

Beth Ryan

Joyce and Wally Senney

Veronica and Michael Voll

Invitation

Questions for the New Members

Affirmation of Faith

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

Many: I believe in God.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Many: I believe in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Many: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Expression of Welcome

One: Let us, the members of Lakewood Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Many: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Anthem

David Schwoebel

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation

All youth (Pre-K-8th 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

Harold Friedell

Day by Day

A Time of Sharing

Invitation to Generosity

A generous life counters the societal norms that depend on scarcity. Our Loving God creates in abundance so that all may live a full and flourishing life. When we give from our abundance, we proclaim our trust in God's provision and our love of neighbor.

Offertory

Sandra Jennings

A Prayer

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)

**Just God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that,
through these gifts, your kingdom comes and your will is done. Amen.**

The Reading of God's Word

Michael Greenland

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Glad You're Here

Closing Hymn

480

I Love to Tell the Story

Benediction

Postlude

Alice Jordan

Trumpet Tune

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
- 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.*