

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 8, 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.

*As we work to create light for others,
we naturally light our own way.*
Mary Anne Radmacher, 21st Century

Prelude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Ariel Clayton, violin
Ben Malkevitch, piano

arr. Timothy Shaw

Call to Worship

One: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

Many: You shall see and be radiant.

One: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

Many: The Holy One will bless the people with peace.

One: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

Many: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

One: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

Many: God is here among us. Let us rejoice and be glad in God's presence.

— adapted from a liturgy by Seekers Church

Opening Hymn

We Three Kings

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Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of Light and Love, even generations later, the Epiphany star still shines brightly. Gather us in, open our hearts, and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again the call to walk in the way of Christ. Amen.

Anthem

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Brightest and Best

LCC Chancel Choir; Ariel Clayton, violin

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

Taizé chant

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Mark O'Connor

Appalachia Waltz

Ariel Clayton, violin

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)

Loving God, may these gifts reveal to us and to others the Light that is Jesus. And may this Light lead us on into new and challenging ways of living and serving.

The Reading of God's Word

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

425

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

One: Come to your new journey to be sustained by the food and drink of this holy table.

Many: We come following the stars of guidance.

One: Come in spite of all the detours of your life.

Many: We know God shows us every year, every day an oasis of safety and rest when we are escaping from dangers all around us, and the 'home by another way' which may be a new staying place or a new adventure.

One: Come, for there is always a table waiting.

Many: We come to share what strengthens us and receive the gifts of others.

Words of Remembering

[We remember that scripture tells us that people are fed on the roads of life.

There is manna in the wilderness,
Abigail's early door-dash, meals-on-wheels,
one innkeeper's unexpected kindness,
and another's, much later, in Jericho

for a Samaritan,
inspiring the first warming shelter.

But mostly we remember
that final evening with his disciples
when Jesus shared with a meal
with friend, betrayer, denier,
in a borrowed room, under fear's shadow,
in the Passover tradition.

So is bread and wine redefined,
as a promise to us and those we carry
in the baggage of life
that we pack for every road –
both the tourism of life's joys
and the paths we take through sorrow.

This Holy Communion is the "Take-Away"
from all our stories on all our journeys.]

Prayer of Consecration

[Give us strength and courage,
O Dreamweaver, to cast our lot
into the deep and refreshing pool
of your unconditional grace,
so we may become
your next chapter of hope
for all who hunger and thirst
for the loaf and cup of shalom. amen.]

Sharing of the Elements

[For all your paths in the New Year,
and all the light arising on your way home,
For every meal you share with others,
and every sip you need of hope.

Come, for all things are ready.]

Communion Music

arr. Mark Hayes

In the Bleak Midwinter
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God, as you serve us in sacrament, shine before us a star, and teach us to be cooks and servers for the hungry in the world, those who are escaping some tyranny, those who just need a gift, we go forth to share your kindness, your wisdom, your open heart and resting place. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Go, Tell It On the Mountain # 167

Benediction

Postlude

March of the Kings Menotti

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
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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.*