

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, February 5, 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

River Valley Worship

All For the One Who Saved Me
Chris Burns voice and guitar

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's presence!

One: Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's protection!

One: Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's power!

Opening Hymn

[see insert]

Our Goodly Fellowship
by Michael Galloway

OUR GOODLY FELLOWSHIP

Walnut Street

written for the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the
First Presbyterian Church, Wellboro, Pennsylvania

Rev. Bob Greer

Michael Galloway



Cre - at - ing and re - new - ing God in whom one cov - e - nant are we,
In wor - ship with the hea - ven's host we praise you God and serve as one,



The signs of hope en - com - pass us, with - in this bless - ed fam - il - y.
For those we love are ver - y near though earth - ly work for them is done;



A rich and car - ing her - i - tage with Christ im - pels us to reach out;
In bright - ness do they shine with joy; we fee - bly jour - ney to their light;



En - dow us with dis - cern - ing hearts to see a - bid - ing grace a - bout.
E - quip us with your spir - it's grace that all in heart and hand u - nite.

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Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Sovereign God, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions. Let our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you. May we seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Let it be so. Amen.

Moment of Recognition

Gloria Van Peeren in recognition of 24 years of committed, trustworthy, and weekly service to LCC's Finance Office.

Anthem

W. A. Mozart

Ave Verum Corpus

LCC Chancel Choir

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

John Stainer

Sevenfold Amen

A Time of Sharing

Invitation to Generosity

The generous life imagines the possibilities of the kingdom of God realized through the sharing of our gifts. Generosity glorifies God and connects us as neighbors. When we give of our time, talent, and treasure, we declare our trust in the abundance of God's continuing creative acts and participate in the realization of the kingdom on earth.

Offertory

William Lloyd Webber

Hymn

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)

God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Claire Stair

Matthew 5: 13 - 20

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

State of the Church Address

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

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. Larry Shackley

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.

We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.

May we bask in this glow

Now and forevermore. Amen.

Closing Hymn

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We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

Benediction

Mike Galloway

A Gaelic Blessing

Postlude

James Mansfield

Jubilation

Ben Malkevitch, organ

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.*

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