

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Sunday, February 12, 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

Karin Tooley

Improvisation

Karin Tooley, piano

Call to Worship (from Sirach 15:15-20)

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

Many: God gives us the choice to follow and to be faithful.

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

Many: God offers fire to warm us and water to quench our thirst.

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

Many: God considers us with care and knows our ways.

Opening Hymn

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In Christ There Is No East or West

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Righteous God, in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care, redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us, and you recognize your people as we are—fully human and made in your image. Let us meet in this time and place. Amen.

Anthem

Leslie Adams

Hymn to All Nations
LCC Chancel Choir
Karin Tooley, piano

Hymn to All Nations was commissioned by the First Presbyterian Church in East Cleveland in 1997. Despite its soaring spirit and superb craft, to my knowledge, it has not been performed often since its premiere. With both music and text by Adams, its message expands solidarity beyond border race, class, and creed and creates a “call to peace” for all humanity. Ben Malkevitch

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

Baumbach

Let the Words of My Mouth

A Time of Sharing

Invitation to Generosity

1 Corinthians 3:8-9 reminds us that, “The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.” What a privilege to be God’s vessel and participant in kindom nurture and care. Let us give generously knowing we have been given gifts to be used for the building.

Offertory

Karin Tooley

Improvisation
Karin Tooley, piano

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 who gives the increase, receive these gifts and magnify them for your vision. Continually grow generosity in us and be glorified. Amen.

The Reading of God’s Word

Ryan Greiger

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

Always Growing

Closing Hymn

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The Church’s One Foundation

Benediction

Postlude

Ruth Elaine Schram

Heaven

Ben Malkevitch, organ

About our guest musician: pianist Karin Tooley specializes in working with dancers and choruses. She plays for ballet and modern dance classes and rehearsals at Mather Dance Center of Case Western Reserve University. Karin serves as pianist and music director at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland and, as of late, you may find her playing in Playhouse Square lobbies prior to the show.

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.