

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday



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

arr. Joel Raney

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty
LCC Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Many: Blessed is the one who comes.

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Many: May the rivers of justice run.

One: Children singing, families dancing,

Many: The elders give a shout!

One: Peace in heaven, glory in the highest!

Many: Even the stones cry out!

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud hosanna!

Many: May our refrain never cease.

One: Not by power nor by might,

Many: But the way that makes for peace.

Opening Hymn

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All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Holy God, in the midst of the loud "Hosannas!," as the waving palm leaves rustle in unison, quiet our certainty so that we might discover something new about your vision...your hope...your calling upon our lives... so that we might be transformed for the better in the way we think, act, and do. Amen.

Anthem

arr. Joseph Martin

A Festival of Palms

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

Friedell

Day by Day

A Time of Sharing

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Jane Binion

Offertory

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)

O God of Welcome and Waving Palms, as the crowd offered to you their praise and the palms on the road, so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work of justice you are bringing about in the world through your unending love. Amen and Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Michael Greenland

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Who's the Leader?

Communion Hymn

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Anyone who wishes to partake in this sacrament is welcome to do so.

Our Communion Elements will be shared in the pews this week.

Words of Remembering

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

One: Let us receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

All: **We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

One: Let us receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

All: **We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

Communion Music

Albert Tepper

The Palms

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our table and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak in faith and act in love, not only here, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope in a fractured world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

Closing Hymn

[insert]

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, the chant - ing clear and loud.
for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Benediction

Postlude

arr. Douglas Wagner

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One Bread, One Body

LCC Handbell Choir

Paula Deal, Audrey Hancock, Val Mechenbier,

Michael Komperda, Peggy Shaw, Cathy Spicer, Susan Walker,

Carol Wilson, Robert Wenz, Jan Young

(please sing with us!)

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.