

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, April 16, 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

Greg Sewell

*Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*  
Ben Malkevitch, organ

## Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Many: The whole creation rejoices;  
the birds sing from every tree.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

**Many: Babies babble with sounds of joy;  
words cannot express our overflowing hearts.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

**Many: Breathing peace on us in these moments;  
surrounding us with grace and hope.**

## Opening Hymn

# 230

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts: faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

## Anthem

Lloyd Larson

*The Tomb Stands Open Wide*

LCC Chancel Choir

## A Time of Prayer

### 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

*Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

Whelpton

## A Time of Sharing

### Call to Offering

### Offertory

G. F. Handel

*Adagio in F*

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)

**May the gifts we offer be used to open doors closed to strangers, hands shut tight against generous giving, and hearts frozen by fears of the unknown. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## The Reading of God's Word

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

## Closing Hymn

# 218

*Thine Is The Glory*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Jane Haddon

*Risen Indeed*

Ben Malkevitch, organ

### ***Our 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. Wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church. We declare this in the everlasting grace of the Still-Speaking God.*

## 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](http://www.lcc-church.org)
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options