

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, April 30, 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.

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## Prelude

Ben Malkevitch

*Psalm 23*

Jennifer Browning, alto  
Ben Malkevitch, piano

## Call to Worship

One: God invites us to come in and go out and find pasture:

**Many: to come into the kingdom, into abundant life, into the light; to go out to serve, to live our faith, to be the Body of Christ.**

One: Christ calls us to hear his voice

**Many: and so we come to listen and seek and follow.**

One: We stand at the threshold of God's future,

**All: the Spirit stands at the door and knocks. Come, let us worship.**

## Opening Hymn

# 575

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

## **Prayer of Invocation** (in unison)

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face shadows and death, walk beside us. When we hunger for love and belonging, fill us with your presence and draw us into community. When we are fearful, give us our daily bread. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

## **Reception of New Members**

*Brian Bowles*

*Renee Bowles*

*Kelly Burd*

*Amelia Geiger*

*Ryan Geiger*

*Doug Nyland*

*John Pangrace*

*Ruth Pangrace*

*Sean Quigley*

*Michael Readinger*

*Michael Vance*

*Susan Wagner*

## **Invitation**

### **Questions for the New Members**

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**Many: I believe in God.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**Many: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Many: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

#### **Expression of Welcome**

One: Let us, the members of Lakewood Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**Many: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

## **Anthem**

Derek Hakes

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

LCC Chancel Choir

## **Faith Formation**

All youth (Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **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**

*Amen*

Stainer

## **A Time of Sharing**

### **Call to Offering**

#### **Offertory**

Fred Acton

*The Good Shepherd*

## **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 love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may have abundant life. Amen.

## **The Reading of God's Word**

Maic D'Agostino

John 10:1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

## **Reflection**

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

## **Closing Hymn**

# 588

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

Antonio Vivaldi

*Allegro amabile*

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