

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, May 28, 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

arr. Gary Norian

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship

One: The universe is full of God's handiwork,

Many: God's Holy Wisdom is the source of life.

One: We celebrate your works, O Holy One,

Many: for you are our Creator, your Spirit gives us life.

One: We will sing God's praises as long as we have a voice,

Many: We bless you God with our whole being!

Opening Hymn

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O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

Prayer of Invocation

On this day of Pentecost, the church is born and re-born. The Holy Spirit empowers us together, aflame with new life. God, we pray that your Spirit would set us free from the prisons of pettiness, jealousy, and greed. Set us free to be your church. We are freed to free others. We are forgiven to forgive others. We are loved to love others. Fill us with your Spirit, renew us as your body for the world. Amen.

Anthem

Paul Baloche, arr. Jack Schrader

Open the Eyes of My Heart

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

259

Spirit of the Living God

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Mark Hayes

Meditation

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)

Mysterious Spirit, we dedicate our offerings to the ordinary wonders of living—shared meals, shared stories, and shared lives. May simple signs and wonders offer us sustenance in a difficult world. And may the Holy meet us in surprising ways. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Maic D'Agostino

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,

in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

We Don't Have to Look Far

A Blessing for Sabbatical

Moderator, Jan Young: Beloved friends in Christ, Today we give thanks for Pastor Joanna and her ministry among us as we send her off for sabbatical rest. We ask God to bless this time of rest and ease for Pastor Joanna and for her family, and we ask God to bring her back to our community refreshed and nourished with God's Spirit as 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.

Rev. Catherine

A reading from Exodus:

Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy.

And a reading from Psalm 127:

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil. For God gives rest to God's beloved.

Litany of Blessing

Jan: Pastor Joanna, we wish God's blessings on you as you leave for this sabbatical time of renewal.

All: As you journey, we ask God to guide you in all you do.

Pastor: May God's peace be with all of us as I step away for a season to renew my spirit, my ministry, and my life.

All: May you experience the gift of spiritual growth on your sabbatical.

Pastor: I pray for this gift for each of you as well.

All: We pray for you, Pastor Joanna, for your family, and for our staff and church leaders, and for each of our guest preachers this summer – that we will all be strengthened and renewed in this time.

Pastor: I remain confident that God has called me to be the Senior Pastor of Lakewood Congregational Church now and into the future. I will hold this community of faith in prayer and in fondness through my travels, looking forward to the ways we will use our shared growth in ministry together.

All: We send you off with our blessing, and we will greet your return with joy!

Rev. Catherine: I invite you to extend or open your hands in a spirit of blessing as we pray together:

All: Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts. Renew Pastor Joanna for ministry through this time set aside for adventure, ease, and wonder; through the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine after five years of ministry at Lakewood Congregational Church; and through the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace her with your presence and keep her steadfast in faith while we are gone from one another for this time. Amen.

Closing Hymn

582

Come Down, O Love Divine

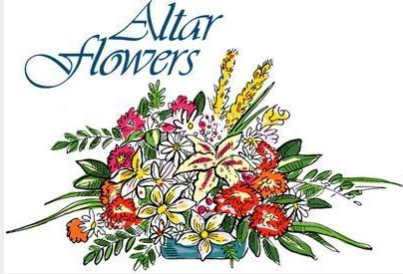
Benediction

Postlude

arr. Gary Norian

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ben Malkevitch, piano



*The flowers on the altar are
dedicated to the Glory of God
in loving memory of **Virginia Hancock**
from John Hancock and family*

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
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options