

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, June 18, 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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## Welcome

Laura Germaine  
Chair Elect

## Prelude

*Little Prelude no. 23*  
Judy Fesko, piano

J.S. Bach

## Call to Worship

Leader: Raise your voices in response to God's goodness.

**People: We praise you, O Lord, for all the blessings you have given us.**

Leader: Lift your hearts in sweet surrender to God's mercy.

**People: We thank you, O Lord, for hearing the prayers of our hearts.**

Leader: God is good; Praise be to God!

**People: The love and mercy of God never fails.**

## Opening Hymn

*Gather Us In*

# 284

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

Gracious and ever-present God, make each of us an instrument of your justice. Continue to weave us into a family, your Kingdom, showing forth your power of healing, feeding, clothing and resurrection. Bless us and our differences and sustain our courage to stand together in the face of oppression and injustice in this present world. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Impart to us the knowledge and understanding to better know you and glorify your grace on each and every step of the journey of our lives. In the name of Jesus, who came in the name of love. Amen

## **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.**

## **A Time of Sharing**

### **Call to Offering**

### **Offertory**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

Judy Fesko, 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)

**Lord, we know that there is much work to be done; far more than we ever imagined. We ask that you bless these gifts that they be used for the work you have set before us, for we place our lives and trust in you. Amen.**

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

Claire Stair

Matthew 9:35-10:08

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

## **Reflection**

Reverend Irene Willis-Hassan

## Closing Hymn

# 543

*Blessed Assurance*

## Benediction

## Postlude

arr. Joel Raney

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Judy Fesko, piano

*Rev. Irene Willis Hassan serves as Minister for Refugee and Migration Services with the United Church of Christ (UCC). She works with UCC congregations to expand migration services and is responsible for UCC initiatives to strengthen congregational engagement in refugee resettlement, networking and advocacy. Rev. Willis Hassan brings a wealth of experience and insight from serving among vulnerable and displaced people in various locations, including working on relief projects in Turkey, Syria and Jordan, managing the refugee employment department at the Episcopal Diocese Refugee Resettlement Office in Seattle, and serving as the Chaplain for Hawaii's largest homeless services provider, The Institute for Human Services.*

### ***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