

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, July 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.

Welcome

Andy Barlow
Congregational Life

Prelude

Mark Hayes

Blessed Assurance
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship *(based upon Psalm 92:1-4)*

One: Come and give thanks to our God.
Sing praises to the holy name.

Many: **With the melody of the lute and the harp and the song in our hearts, we declare God's steadfast love in the morning and faithfulness at night.**

One: God's works make us glad.

Many: **Your works are great, O God. We sing our praises of joy to you.**

Opening Hymn

5

O for a Thousand Tongues

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

O God, maker of all that is beautiful, Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace. In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us to sow those seeds through our ministries so that all may share in Creation's abundance to make true the promise that no one will know scarcity and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen.

Special Music

William Grant Still

Summerland

Ben Malkevitch, piano

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

Sally Hutchins

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)

Loving God, we give thanks for the visions and dreams that you share with your people for a world at peace, with justice for everyone. We offer these gifts in response to your abundant blessings and ask that you use them, and the commitment they represent, to share your Good News with all the world. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Patti Komperda

Mark 4:26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Reflection

ev. Mark Pettis

Closing Hymn

#439

God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Benediction

Postlude

Handel

Presto from Organ Concerto no. 5

Ben Malkevitch, organ

Reverend Mark Pettis

The Reverend Mark Pettis serves as the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Manager for the United Church of Christ. In this role he is responsible for guiding and coordinating the ecumenical and interfaith relations of the national setting of the denomination. Among other ecumenical and interfaith commitments, he serves on the Executive Council for Religions for Peace USA, on the Coordinating Committee for Churches United in Christ (CUIC), as a participant in the National Council of Churches-National Council of Synagogues Jewish-Christian Dialogue, as a member of the National Council of Churches Interreligious Convening Table, and on the Advisory Board for the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign. Prior to serving in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Pettis served as the Senior Minister of the Manhattan Beach Community Church (United Church of Christ).

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