

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, August 6, 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

Heather Tuck Macalla  
Faith In Action

## Prelude

*Contemplation*  
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Felix Mendelssohn

## Call to Worship

One: Come! Let us walk along together.

**Many: Let us join in heaven's journey!**

One: Come! Let us sing of life together.

**Many: Let us join in heaven's songs!**

One: Come! Let us break bread together.

**Many: Let us join heaven's feast!**

**All: For salvation and joy and abundance are here. Heaven has arrived among us!**

## Opening Hymn

#4

*Holy Holy Holy*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Ever giving God, the abundance of Heaven's Reign is all around us. We have lived in our ways of scarcity while you have set before us a feast. In a world ruled by greed and envy, you have taught us to be generous and vulnerable. In a world filled with cruelty and indifference, you have taught us a life of care and compassion. As we live and breathe and are nourished by the gifts you bring today, may we do so with mindfulness and gratitude, transforming our scarcity into abundance and our brokenness into wholeness. Amen.

## Anthem

Dana Mengel

*Sing Alleluia*

LCC Summer Pick Up 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.

## A Time of Sharing

### Call to Offering

### Offertory

G. F. Handel

*Adagio*

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)

All Good gifts around us come from you, O God. Use them and us, we pray, to the end that your realm may come and your will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

## The Reading of God's Word

Michael Greenland

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## Reflection

Rev. Michael Howard

*A Feast of Compassion*

# Communion Hymn

Shirley Erene Murray

Anyone who wishes to partake in this sacrament is welcome to do so. Our Communion Elements will be shared in the pews this week.

## For Everyone Born



For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for eve - ry - one born, clean wa - ter and bread;  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
to work, to speak out to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for eve - ry - one born, a star o - ver - head.  
for young and for old, the right to be - long.  
for eve - ry - one born, the right to be free.

### Refrain



And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes.



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy.

## Invitation to Communion

Anyone who wishes to partake in this sacrament is welcome to do so. Our Communion Elements will be shared with intinction.

Leader: The Spirit of Creation is with you!

People: And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.

Leader: Open wide your souls.

People: We open them to the Creator's love.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.

People: With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise.

## Words of Remembering

## Prayer of Consecration

## Sharing of the Elements

## Communion Music

Tim Hoff

*Break This Bread*

Ben Malkevitch, piano

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Holy God, Divine Designer-With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.

## Service of Holy Communion

## Invitation to Communion

## Closing Hymn

Mark Miller

### Draw the Circle Wide

$\text{♩} = 132$

Draw the cir-cle\_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our\_

song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle\_

To verses Last time, Fine

wide. wide.

1. God the still-point of the cir-cle, round whom all cre-  
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor-i-zons, so en-com-pass  
 3. Let the dreams we\_ dream be larg-er, than we've ev-er

-a-tion turns; noth-ing lost, but  
 great and small; let our lov-ing  
 dreamed be-fore; let the dream of

held for-ev-er in God's gra-cious arms.  
 know no bor-ders, faith-ful to God's call.  
 Christ be in us, o-pen ev-ry door.

## Benediction

## Postlude

Antonio Vivaldi

*Allegro*

Ben Malkevitch, organ

*Rev. Michael Howard*

*Michael has been serving as the Minister of Faith in Action since March 2019. From the wooded knobs of Kentucky countryside, Michael is a teacher, community organizer, and prophetic Christian leader. He has taught and served around the world, including Peru, Brazil, India, Ethiopia, Virginia, and New Jersey. In addition to traditional pastoral ministry, Michael has coached and co-founded a number of community organizations, nonprofits, and a media design consultancy. Michael is an ordained minister in the UCC and has an MPA from Morehead State University and an MDiv from Drew Theological Seminary.*

### **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