

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 3, 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

Ben Malkevitch

Trinity

Ben Malkevitch, voice and piano

Call to Worship*

One: We gather hoping to see God, here in worship.

Many: We realize that we see God in one another.

One: We can see God

Many: when we show one another honor,

One: when we pursue hospitality to strangers,

Many: when we live in harmony with one another,

One: when we rejoice in hope.

Many: Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

Opening Hymn

The Gifts We Give to God



1. The gifts God gave to us a - bound through all our lives,
2. We have a wealth of skills, which sure - ly are the key
3. So let us pledge to - day, and fu - ture days and years,



en - rich - ing hearts and minds so all of us may thrive.
to help im - prove the world, ful - fill our de - sti - ny.
to give back to our God, whose call we clear - ly hear.



He gave us all we need to let our souls be freed.
While ri - ches do give aid, their po - wer quick - ly fades,
Think how we all can grow through gifts that we be - stow,



What aid then, and what deeds shall we give back to God?
com - pared to what we've made, and build in God's true name.
how far the world can go, through gifts we give to God.

Words and Music by Ben Malkevitch

Prayer of Invocation* (in unison)

O Holy Creator, you spoke all creation into being; we ask that you keep speaking to us now. Speak to us as we worship together, that we might hear your voice ringing clearly through the many voices around us. Speak to us, that we might hear and understand. Amen.

Anthem

Sing Me to Heaven
LCC Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

Farewell Litany for Ben Malkevitch

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

O Blessed Savior

Malkevitch

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Offertoire

Guilmant

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)

Gift-giving God, we bring you what we can offer, our time, our talents, our finances, our very selves, in the hope that what we bring, you might magnify, and multiply, for the work of your love in the world. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Exodus 3:1-6

Beth Abbott

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Holy Ground

Communion Hymn

384

Here at Thy Table, Lord

Invitation to Communion

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

Words of Remembering

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

Malkevitch

Improvisation

Closing Hymn

458

Ours the Journey

Benediction

Malkevitch

'Til We Meet Again

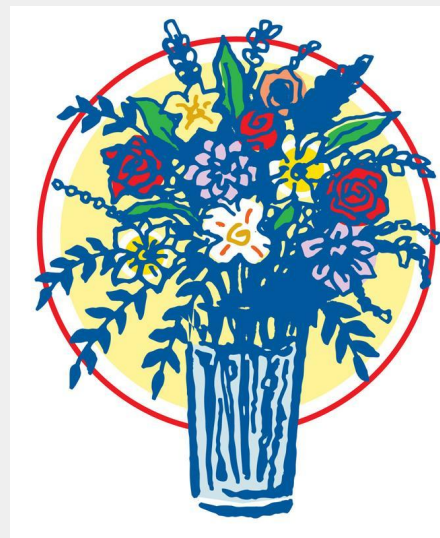
Postlude

Flor Peeters

Festival Voluntary

Ben Malkevitch, organ

*Molly Springer, *Presbyterian Outlook* 9-03-23



***The flowers on the altar
are dedicated to the Glory
of God in welcoming back
Rev. Joanna to the pulpit***

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