

# Lakewood Congregational Church

***A Congregation of the United Church of Christ***

Sunday, October 1, 2023



An Order of Worship to be followed in your home,  
along with our Livestream Service at 10:00 am

*Thank you to Blackbird Bakery for their donation of breads in  
celebration of World Communion Sunday*

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*This week's guest musicians  
Kay Galloway, organ  
Peter Hampton, choir director*

## 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 and Announcements

### Prelude

arr. Young

*Prelude on 'Shall We Gather at the River'*

### Call to Worship

One: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

**All: Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.**

One: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

**All: Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.**

One: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

**All: Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.**

### Opening Hymn

#518

*This Is A Day of New Beginnings*

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

Lord, open our eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet. Help us freely share your love with all your creation. We give thanks for beautifying your creation and for making a diverse world. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and loving to all. We thank you, O Lord, for allowing us to grow in our welcome and learn about other cultures as we share your amazing grace and love with each other and the world. Amen.

## **Anthem**

arr. Moses Hogan

*God's Gonna Set This World on Fire*

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**

## **A Time of Sharing**

## **Stewardship Moment**

Charlotte Petrie

### **Call to Offering** **Offertory**

Willan

*Chorale Prelude*

## **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)

Holy One, we ask that you bless these offerings and tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept our offerings and tithes, O God, as a testimony of your goodness in our lives. Amen.

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

Michael Greenland

John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

## Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

*Abundant Life*

## Service of Holy Communion

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

**Invitation to Communion**

**Words of Remembering**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Sharing of the Elements**

## Closing Hymn

#606

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Dunstable

*Agincourt Hymn*

## ***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