

# Lakewood Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday, October 22, 2023



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

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*This week's guest musician*  
*Judy Fesko - organ and 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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## Announcements and Welcome

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

**Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.**

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of the Lord.

**Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.**

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

**Many: God is worthy to be praised!**

### Opening Hymn

#586

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

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

Revealing God, you show us the way of life, lead us with love, and move us to compassion. May our hearts be transformed by your Spirit and by your Truth. Let our actions and attitudes demonstrate your kingdom. May justice and peace be our hope. Let repair, restoration, and reconciliation be our aim. Make your presence among us known. Let us prepare to receive it. Amen.

## **Global Ministries Update**

David Sangree

## **Anthem**

arr. André Thomas

*I'm Gonna Sing*

LCC Chancel Choir

## **A Time of Prayer**

**Invitation to 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**

*Day by Day*

## **A Time of Sharing**

**Stewardship Moment**

Debi Kasper

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**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)

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. Amen.

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

Maic D'Agostino

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

## **Reflection**

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

*An Image Stamped on a Coin*

## **Closing Hymn**

#381

*Take My Gifts*

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

***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