

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 29, 2023



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

Our guest choir conductor and pianist is Peter Hampton

“To sing once is to pray twice.” St. Augustine

In my short time here as interim music director, I hear and see that LCC really is a singing congregation! If you have never been a choir member or have just taken some time off, I invite you to join this dedicated group of musicians. If you cannot make the Thursday rehearsal time, there is a practice before worship on Sunday mornings. High school students: we'd love to have you come and sing whenever your schedule allows. Need to sit with your family for the service? No problem. Come up front when it's time for the anthem. If you have a family member home over the holidays that would like to sing for Christmas Eve services, please encourage them to contact me to get the music ahead of time. My email address is included in this announcement.

The choir and I welcome and encourage you to join us.

Judy Fesko, Interim Music 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.

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

David Kasper

Prelude

Jazz Trio

Taylor Alborgast, bass; Dan Bruce, guitar

David Kasper, saxophone

Call to Worship

One: The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

Many: God has been with us from generation to generation.

One: We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

Many: Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

One: May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

Many: May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

Opening Hymn

#618

How Firm a Foundation

Peter Hampton, piano

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Righteous God, your law is love. Your message is love. Your presence is love. May Love fill our atmosphere and our interactions as we gather together in your name. May Love transform us, renew us, and revive us. Amen.

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) Patti Komperda

Susan Reis

Nathan Self

Anthem

Allen Pote

Love Comes From God

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

Sevenfold Amen

A Time of Sharing

Stewardship Moment

David Amen

Call to Offering

Offertory

John Coltrane

Dear Lord

Jazz Trio

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)

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity. Amen.

Special Music

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Jazz Trio

The Reading of God's Word

Joanellen Hurley

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet' ”?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

The Greatest Commandment

Closing Hymn

#609

Take My Life

Peter Hampton, piano

Benediction

Postlude

GCC Presenters

Nathan Self is an associate organizer with GCC working to recruit more institutions and support West Side congregations. Nathan got his start organizing in Milwaukee with a neighborhood action network and unionizing his workplace. He's particularly excited about organizing's potential to bring different kinds of people together to work in solidarity for the common good. Nathan is also becoming an Episcopal priest and hopes to serve a church in Cuyahoga County.

Susan is a leader with GCC from the National Council of Jewish Women. She serves on the GCC Management Team and co-chairs the new EngageGCC initiative which is working to train individuals from GCC member organizations to become leaders and to improve communication between the member organizations and Strategy Team. She is a life-long Clevelander, is married and has 4 grown children.

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