

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 19, 2023



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

Our guest musician is 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.

Announcements and Welcome

Lauren Smigelski

Prelude

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Quiet Prelude on "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

LCC Bell Choir, Directed by Lisa Blasko

Paula Deal, Audrey Hancock, Michael Komperda,

Valerie Mechenbier, Bob Paraska, Peggy Shaw,

Cathy Spicer, Susan Walker, Robert Wenz, Jan Young

Call to Worship

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe came to be, before the earth was formed, you have been with us.

Many: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

Many: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

Many: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Opening Hymn

#605

For Each Day of Life We Thank You

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God. Amen.

Anthem

Ken Medema

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
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.

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Deep River
LCC Bell Choir

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 bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Patti Komperda

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

The Point

Closing Hymn

#718

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Benediction

Postlude

Good members of LCC!

If you are willing and able to share your musical talents at an upcoming service or during the holiday season, please contact one of the members of the music team or Judy Fesko. Singers, instrumentalists, teens, retirees...we encourage you to share the joy of your music with your friends at LCC.

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



Make a financial contribution as a Christmas Gift in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one this Christmas.

Advent Worship Highlights

- First Sunday of Advent** | Dec. 3 | With Music and Nativity Storytelling from Dave Burns and the Third Floor Band
- Second Sunday in Advent** | Dec. 10 | Service of Holy Communion, With Music from the Cleveland Flute Society
- Third Sunday in Advent** | Dec. 17 | With Music from our LCC Bell Choir
- Fourth Sunday in Advent** | Dec. 24 | With Music from Edie Barcelona
- Christmas Eve Services** | Dec. 24 | Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 9:00

Events

- Annual Cookie Decorating Event** | Dec. 5 at 6:30 PM | Children & Youth are invited to decorate cookies for our Community Meal guests in the Social Hall
- Advent Devotional Discussion Group** | Tuesdays in December at 2:00 | Gather weekly in the Parlor to discuss the LCC Advent Devotional with Rev. Catherine
- CityMusic Concert** | Dec. 8 at 6:30 PM | Christmas, Beethoven, & Mambo. This is a free, all ages event
- Annual Christmas Pageant and Dinner** | Dec. 17 at 4:30 PM (pageant) 5:30 PM (dinner) | all are welcome to see our children present the Nativity story, with dinner and a “special guest” to follow. RSVP required for dinner.

Opportunities

- LCC Advent Devotional Book** | Available Nov. 26 in the church office. Copies can be mailed or emailed upon request
- Angel Tree Program** | Purchase Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents. Gift Tags will be available in worship Dec. 3
- Global Ministries Alternative Giving** | Dec. 10 after worship I