

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 5, 2023



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

Our guest musician and choir director is Judy Fesko



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

B-I-B-L-E
LCC Children's Choir

Call to Worship

One: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

Many: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.

One: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

Many: In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.

One: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

Many: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

Opening Hymn

#350

Spirit Song

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of every age and time, inspire us today with the memories of the saints whose energy surrounds us. Root us and ground us. Let us transform and be transformed so we might perceive your presence among us ever more clearly, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Anthem

Rene Clausen

Set Me as a Seal

LCC Chancel Choir

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.*

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

Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer

A Time of Sharing

Endowment Moment

Michael Daso

Call to Offering

Offertory

Robert Lowry

Shall We Gather at the River

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, thank you for the gifts you give and the privilege and honor of bringing our gifts of time, talent, and treasure into your kingdom. Receive our humble offerings and magnify them to meet the needs of the community. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Michael Greenland

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table to taste the feast, the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith.

Service of Holy Communion

Anyone who wishes to partake in this sacrament is welcome to do so.

Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (verse 1) #392

Invitation

The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast.
Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul.

We receive the bread and wine connected to the ages:
to the saint of old who felt unworthy,
to the seeker eager to know God,
to the teenager who wonders what it's all about,
to the child who eats with unburdened faith.

Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations. There is great joy here. No one is turned away for God is the host!

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (verse 2)

Prayer

Pastor: God is in this place.

People: And in our hearts.

Pastor: Open yourself to the nudging God.

People: We feel the breath of the Spirit.

Pastor: Remember God made flesh.

People: Jesus, who taught us a new way.

Time and time again you've offered your grace. Even as we have stepped away, you continue to call us to be your people.

You have never left us. We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances. You are ever-patient, always faithful.

We give thanks for this time of celebration. For the One this meal remembers. For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

With those who have gone before us, whose hands touched the bread, whose lips embraced the cup, we glorify you.

Remembering

We remember the Saints who have died in the past year, even as we continue to grieve.

The Saints of Lakewood Congregational Church

<i>Marinika Beaver</i>	<i>Phil Brett</i>	<i>Muriel Campbell</i>
<i>Peter Kuhn</i>	<i>Linda Lodge</i>	<i>Caroline Trela</i>

The Saints of Trinity Lutheran Church

<i>Dori Heger</i>	<i>Cindy Lynn</i>	<i>Dave McCulloch</i>
<i>Martha McMahon</i>	<i>Robert Robar</i>	<i>David Scudamore</i>

The Saints who are Friends and Family of our Church Community

<i>Philip Armstrong</i>	<i>Barbara Babcock</i>	<i>Grant Blackburn</i>
<i>Elizabeth Bohn</i>	<i>Mark Gerhardt</i>	<i>Jennie Green</i>
<i>Gabriel Jungmann</i>	<i>Rich LaFleur</i>	<i>Eric Lamoureux</i>
<i>Audrey Leenhouts</i>	<i>Eleanor McCarthy Dun</i>	<i>Leona T Mizen</i>

Marilu Negron	Maria Ramos	Ted Roeling
Eric Romweber	Patty Ryan	Anthony Salem
Stephen Starwalt	Kay Whitman	

Please speak the names of others you have loved and lost this year.

And we remember all others who have gone before us.

This is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (verse 3)

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Wine

Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said: "This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And pouring the wine: "This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

God of all, send your Spirit to this place so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment, may know your presence. As we eat the bread and drink of the cup, make us one with the saints, and with our siblings in faith around the world. Be with us God, not only here but in every moment of our lives. Help us to know you, to be guided by the Holy Spirit, and to walk in the way of Christ Now and forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ. From child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom, we thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen.

Closing Hymn

#637

For All the Saints

Benediction

Postlude

Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

Based on Grand Isle

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
Judy Fesko

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