

Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 · 10:00 AM

Announcements and Welcome

Julie Warren

Prelude

arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

Advent Candle Lighting: Peace

John and Audrey Hancock

Reader A: How does a weary world practice peace?

Reader B: *By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to. By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven. By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.*

Reader A: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs. 3

#119

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge of show,
and cause us in her ways to go.*

*Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Call to Worship

Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together. We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another. If you are worshipping online with someone, you can do the same. If you are worshipping online

alone, you can share these words with me. Now repeat these phrases after me:

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

Opening Hymn

#134

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Anthem

Nancy Price and Don Besig

Come, Emmanuel

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

Call to Offering

Offertory

Handel

He Shall Feed His Flock

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

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)

God of peace, thank you for the ways you break into our weary world with a joy that reaches far beyond anything the world can offer. We ask your blessing upon these gifts that they may help us to share your peace with the world. Bless each of us, that we may be vessels of your joy-filled light in our weary world. Amen.

Special Music

arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

In the Bleak Midwinter

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

The Reading of God's Word

Darren Toms

Luke 1:24-45

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give

to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D’Agostino

We Find Joy in Connection

Service of Holy Communion

All are welcome to participate in the sacrament of communion at LCC. Today we will take communion in the pews. You will remain seated and communion stewards will pass trays of bread and juice throughout the sanctuary. You can hold each element and all will be invited to take the elements at the same time.

Invitation

Words of Remembering

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Elements

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

God, you have blessed the lowly love. You have filled the hungry with good things. Help us to carry this song into our lives, turning weariness into joy. Amen.

Closing Hymn

#125

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Advent Benediction

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God’s beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.

Postlude

arr. Phyllis Avidan Louke

O Come All Ye Faithful

Greater Cleveland Flute Society

We welcome our guest musicians

Our guest organist and choir director is Adam Sampson

Greater Cleveland Flute Society Members:

Becky Chen, Ann Droste, Bryan Kennard, Emily Matz, Linda Miller, Cathy Spicer, George Sterbenz, Bonnie Svetlik, Andrea Thompson, Sydney Vereb, Rae Yaeger

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

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
- Texting STEWARD to 44-321
- 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

