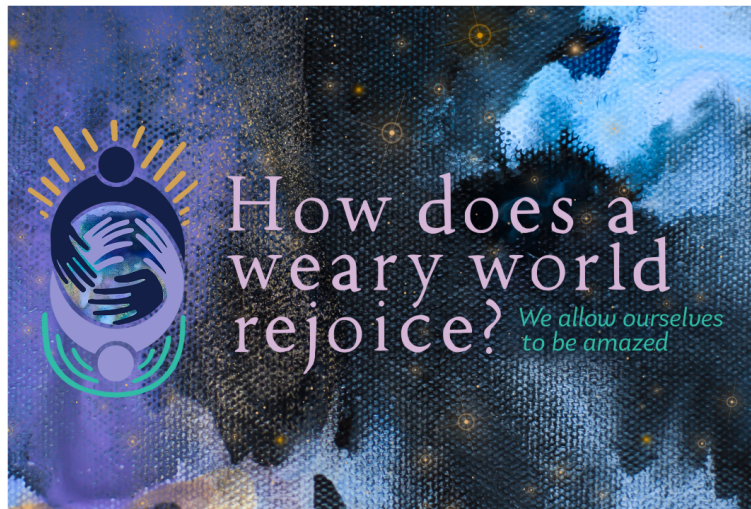


Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023 · 10:00 AM

Announcements and Welcome

Patti Komperda

Prelude

Arnold B. Sherman

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LCC Handbells

Advent Candle Lighting: Joy

The Graham-Fleenor Family

Reader A: How does a weary world practice joy?

Reader B: *By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.*

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies.

By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

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

Response

#119

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs. 4

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.*

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

Call to Worship

One: Our God can part the sea.

All: **God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.**

One: Our God can walk on water.

All: **God can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.**

One: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

All: God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

One: There is nothing our God cannot do.

All: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

Opening Hymn

138

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Anthem

Ruth Elaine Schram

Call Him Jesus

LCC Chancel Choir

Liturgy of Farewell for the Graham-Fleenor Family

We celebrate with Rev. George Graham as he embraces the call to serve as the new Pastor of Pilgrim UCC in Tremont beginning on January 1. We give thanks for George, Michael, Robert, and Ellen for the gifts they have brought to LCC. We look forward to serving God together in a new way in the season ahead.

Unison Prayer

O God, we give thanks for the times when we, together, have shared the life of faith: in worship, in learning, and in service. We pray that George, Michael, Robert, and Ellen will be aware of the Spirit's guidance on the journey now and always. Amen

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

Tom Fettke

Redeemer Come

A Time of Sharing Call to Offering

Offertory

Douglas E. Wagner

Christmas Carol Celebration

LCC Handbells

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 joy, thank you for breaking into our world with joy. We ask your blessing on these gifts to magnify the promises of the Advent season and empower each of us to be vessels of your hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Cathy Calamia-Downing

Luke 1:57-66

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them

pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed

Closing Hymn

132

When God Is a Child

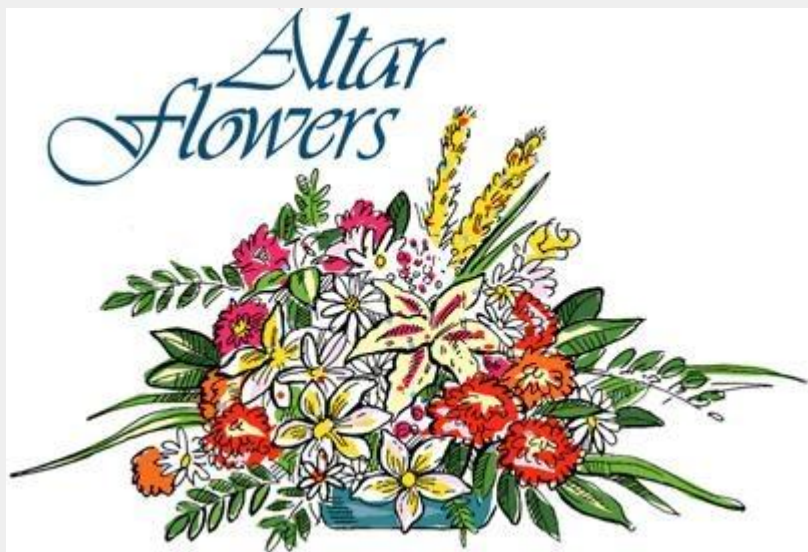
Benediction

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.***



*The flowers on the altar are dedicated
to the Glory of God in honor of **Seth Hampton**,
on the 7th anniversary of his adoption finalization.
From the Hampton Family*

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