

Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



A Special Service
with a message in music
from the 3rd Floor Band

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023 · 10:00 AM

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

I've Got Good News

3rd Floor Band

Advent Candle Lighting: Hope

Cathy & Peg Calamia-Downing

A: How does a weary world hope?

B: *By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.*

By praying for children as they grow; and picking up trash on the sidewalk. By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

A: There are a million ways to practice hope.

So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

B: *With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.*

Response

#119

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs. 2

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

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

Call to Worship

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

Children's Moment

A Time for Sharing

Hanging the Angel Tree Ornaments

Nicky Wills

Offertory

We Three Kings

3rd Floor Band

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

God of hope, 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 hope with the world. Bless each of us, that we may be vessels of your joy-filled light in our weary world. 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.

A Message in Music

Light One Candle

3rd Floor Band

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.

Congregational Response

Light One Candle Vs. 3

What is the mem'ry that's valued so highly

That we keep it alive in that flame?

What's the commitment to those who have died

When we cry out, they've not died in vain.

We have come this far always believing

That justice will somehow prevail.

This is the burden and this is the promise

And this is why we will not fail.

Don't let the light go out,

It's lasted for so many years.

Don't let the light go out,

Let it shine through our love and our tears.

Don't let the light go out,

It's lasted for so many years.

Don't let the light go out,

*Let it shine through our love and our tears,
Don't let the light go out,
Don't let the light go out,
Don't let the light go out.*

Postlude

Hold On, I'm Coming
3rd Floor Band

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3rd Floor Band
Toby Colbert-vocals, guitar
John Coleman-bass
Bob Fry-vocals, guitar, percussion
Mary Fry-vocals, keyboard
Dave Harris, Guitar
Larry Webb-percussion

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