

## Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH

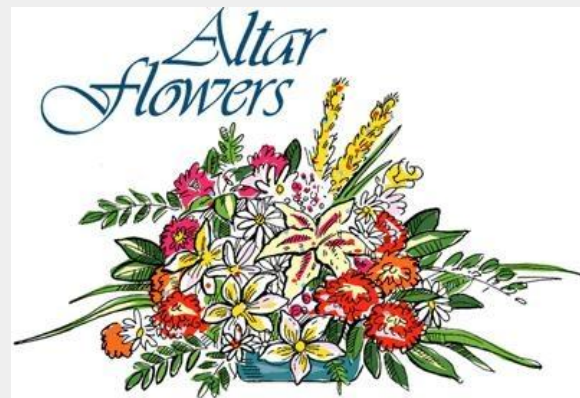
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## Baptism of Christ Sunday

January 14, 2024 · 10:00 AM



*The flowers on the altar are  
dedicated to the Glory of God  
in honor of **John Hancock**  
on his birthday from his family*

### Announcements and Welcome

#### Prelude

Hal Hopson

*Chaconne for Bells*

LCC Handbell Choir

Paula Deal, Audrey Hancock, Michael Komperda,  
Val Mechenbier, Bob Paraska, Peggy Shaw,  
Cathy Spicer, Robert Wenz, Jan Young  
Director: Lisa Blasko

#### Call to Worship

One: We come as people filled with great expectation.

**All: We come filled with hopes and dreams.**

One: We come with serious questions.

**All: We come with doubts that weigh us down.**

One: We long for the heavens to open.

**All: We need to hear the voice of God,**

One: Whispering our names and telling us again,

**All: "You are my Beloved with whom I am well pleased."**

## Opening Hymn

#582

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

## Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Triune God, you come among us in the fullness of your being and affirm the fullness of our humanity—mind, body, and spirit. In you, we find joy and pleasure. In you, we claim peace and hope. In you, we arise to greet a new day and a new way of being. Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness and your way. Amen.

## Anthem

Arr. Bradley Ellingboe

*Down to the River to Pray*

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.

Prayer Response

*Into My Heart*

## A Time of Sharing

### Call to Offering

### Offertory

Hal Hobson

*Shenandoah*

LCC Hanbell 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)

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen.

## The Reading of God's Word

Maic D'Agostino

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Luke 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

## Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

*Called into Belonging*

*Today's reflection begins with a meditation using Hymn #294 Breathe on Me, Breath of God. The congregation will be invited to sing.*

## Closing Hymn

#177

*What Was Your Vow and Vision*

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Our guest musician and choir director is Judy Fesko*

**The photo on the cover is a detail of the baptismal fount given in honor of Rev. Joanna's 10th ordination anniversary.**

**It was created by the following artists:**

Glass Artist: *Skip Streeter, Streets Of Manhattan Studios*

Woodworker: *John Scanlan, Scanlan Furniture Design and Woodworking*

***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.*