

## Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH

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**Annual Meeting Sunday**  
February 4, 2024 · 10:00 AM

## Announcements and Welcome

### Prelude

(Finlandia) arr. Mark Hayes

*Be Still and Know/Be Still, My Soul*

Lisa Miragliotta, piano

### Call to Worship

One: The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears

**Many: Listen to the call into Christ's way of life.**

One: The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision

**Many: May the voice of God be louder than all other voices.**

One: The cries of the poor and the outcast sometimes slip past us and other times overwhelm us

**Many: Draw us in the Spirit's tether, that we might hear and respond to each other.**

One: May our hearts, our eyes, and our ears be filled with God's love.

**Many: May we be God's hands and feet in the world. Let us worship God together.**

### Opening Hymn

#21

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

### Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Holy One, you are ready to meet us wherever we are in our lives, offering vision, interruption, hope where we may least expect it. Surprise us here at worship today with unexpected grace that will change something in us —large or small— and send us into the world inspired and impassioned to do your work. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Anthem

Thomerson and Harlan

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

LCC Children's Choir

LCC Chancel Choir

## Commissioning of Our Capital Campaign Team

### 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

### A Time of Sharing

#### Offertory

##### 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 who calls us to participate in your vision of justice for our world,  
let these offerings become our response:**

**all your people fed,  
all your people safe,  
all your people housed,  
all your people educated. Amen.**

### The Reading of God's Word

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Cathy Calamia-Downing

*Today's Psalm is interpreted by Rev. Michelle Torigian, for the UCC's Living Psalms Project*

Praise God, Creator of All!

How good it is to sing praises to our God-  
From the mountains of Russia to the beaches of the Bahamas,  
From the valleys in Switzerland to the deserts in Sudan,  
From the rainforest of Peru to the plains of Thailand,  
Praise our God!

Our God builds up the people on sides of all borders-  
Across checkpoints and bridges.  
God gathers the outcasts-  
Struggling for shelter when unhoused,  
Seeking love when excommunicated from communities,  
Finding acceptance in the center of middle school.

Through words, medicines, embraces, and affirmations,  
God soothes the broken-hearted,  
Mending wounded souls and bodies and hearts.

God thrives in supernovas and black holes  
And abides on each star-  
Admiring their radiating beauty up close and from afar.

Our Creator is Great— infinite and eternal.  
Seeing the universe in vast ways,  
And from unforeseen angles.

Great is the understanding of our Creator,  
Boundless understanding from each perspective.  
Delivering grace as God stands in each intersection of creation.

As the Divine One sees a new landscape across the galaxy  
And within our communities,  
God lifts our neighbors in the margins of life.  
Even in times of trauma and turmoil, sadness and shame-  
God's greatness builds ladders for our neighbors to climb.

In gratitude we sing to God our Creator  
And make melodies on the sitar, and guitar, and organ.

Under the heavens  
God nourishes the earth with rain and sun,  
Cultivating the flowers near lakes  
And grass along hills and valleys.

Knowing the needs of all creation,  
God provides animals with food,  
And the most vulnerable find the strength they need.

God's joy is not in ego or boldness,  
Not in impressive speech or charismatic smiles,  
Not in bank accounts or influencer "likes."  
But God delights with the ones who celebrate steadfast love  
Who embrace grace, stand after failures, and hope when all seems lost.  
And with our neighbors finding sparks of joy again,  
We praise our God!

## Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

*State of the Church Address 2024*

## Service of Holy Communion

### Invitation to 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.*

### Words of Remembering

### Prayer of Consecration

### Sharing of the Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.**

**We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.**

**May we bask in this glow**

**Now and forevermore. Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

#357

*We Call Ourselves Disciples*

### Benediction

### Postlude

arr. Mark Hayes

*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

*Our guest musician is Lisa Miragliotta*

***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.*