

LAKWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Cover Photo taken by Pastor Joanna this Summer in Colorado
Liturgy Adapted from UCC Worship Ways

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

arr. Christine Anderson

Praise to the Lord

Bob Paraksa, handbells

*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 81 and 112)

One: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to God.

Many: **Happy are those who revere the Holy One. Generation to generation delight in God's blessings.**

One: Sing aloud to God our righteousness; shout for peace to God.

Many: **We rise from the depths in mercy, grace, and justice.**

One: Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for love to God.

Many: **Our hearts are steady and secure. Worship the Holy One!**

*Hymn

#100

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of Glory, we acknowledge your presence among us as we gather. You have knit us together as a community. In your kingdom, the first will be last and the last will be first. Dwell in the praises we voice, in the hope to which we cling, and the love that persists. Reveal yourself to us, Great One, and empower us to declare and spread your goodness wherever we go. Amen.

Anthem

arr. Christine Anderson

As the Deer

Bob Paraska, handbells

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.

A Time of Sharing

Offertory

arr. Dick Wall

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Bob Paraska, 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)

Holy, Holy, Holy God, be glorified in our giving. Receive and magnify these gifts so that needs will be met, communities transformed, and lives renewed. We dedicate them in your precious name. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Cathy Calamia-Downing

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place', and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

"Friend, Move Up Higher"

*Closing Hymn

#490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

*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.***