

LAKWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost Service of Holy Communion

September 14, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship (Inspired Psalm 51)

One: Let us enter the presence of our God with a renewed heart and a right spirit.

Many: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

One: Let us speak, hear, and embrace truth and the wisdom of God.

Many: Strengthen and empower us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

One: Let us hear joy and gladness. Restore our crushed spirits.

Many: Revive us again, O God, according to your steadfast love.

*Hymn

#72

To God Be the Glory

*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Maker of Heaven and Earth, we rejoice in your presence. In you, we find joy and strength, comfort and courage, truth and insight. Speak to us again. Reveal your power in and through us. Show us your glory and be glorified in our worship. May your glorious light shine through hidden spaces. May your blessed darkness make space for rest. Fortify us for this journey and make us instruments of your kingdom. Amen.

Anthem

John Foley, SJ

Come to the Water

LCC Chancel Choir

We invite the congregation to join us on verse 3 of the anthem, found in the insert in the bulletin. All verses are printed, and if you feel moved to join the choir on other verses as well, please feel free to do so.

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 *God, Listen to Your Children Praying*

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 our Provider, receive these gifts in gratitude from your people. We pray that these offerings meet the needs of the world and our community. May they serve as a public witness of our commitment to being your church. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Tom Leatherman

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on

his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Let it Begin with Me

Service of Holy Communion

Anyone who wishes to partake in this sacrament is welcome to do so, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey. If you wish to not partake, it's not a requirement. Today we will receive Communion at the front of our worship space by intinction, coming forward by row. Select a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive Communion, please signal to the ushers and they will come to you.

Invitation and Words of Remembering

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

God, you have formed us as a community of faith. Now, we will go to find and serve our siblings. You knit us together as partners in grace. Now, we will go to share the burdens of those around us. You give us the words we need. Now, we will go to speak for justice and hope for all. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

#558

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

***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.*