

LAKEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



World Communion Sunday

October 5, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Liturgy Adapted from UCC/DOC Global Ministries Resources

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

What a Wonderful World

Michael Simile, vocals and guitar

* Call to Worship

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us,
to make us one.

Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

**Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over
others.**

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation
to all who believe.

Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

*Hymn

#485

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Time for Children

Rachel Burns

*Children are welcome to come up to the front at this time for a
message, then return to their seats. There are activity bags in the back
of the sanctuary and nursery care is available downstairs.*

Anthem

Kyle Pederson

All of Me

LCC Chancel Choir

Cathy Spicer, flute

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 *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

A Time of Sharing

Offertory

Weeden, arr. by Cindy Berry

I Surrender All

* **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)

Generous God, for all the gifts you've given us and countless more to come, we say thank you. Take this offering and use it for your good throughout the world. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Charlie Amen

John 17:20–23

I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may

know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

World Communion Sunday Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino and Peter Makari, Global Ministries Executive

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 to the Table (Responsive)

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

Many: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

Many: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

Many: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

Many: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

One: Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God gathers us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts poured out for the whole world.

Communion Prayer and Sharing the Meal

*Communion Hymn

#393

One Bread, One Body

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and the living presence of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and throughout the generations. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

#420

I Come With Joy

*Benediction

Postlude

Our guest keyboardist today is Lisa Miragliotta. She currently works with choirs at Baldwin-Wallace University, and taught elementary music in the Lakewood City Schools for many years.

Today we welcome Dr. Peter Makari, Ph.D., Global Relations Minister for the Middle East and Europe with United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Global Ministries. An Egyptian-American, Peter has lived in the Middle East, where he worked with the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) in Cairo, Egypt (1991-1994), and then with the Middle East Council of Churches, based

in Limassol, Cyprus (1997-2000). He is the co-editor and author of several books about interfaith and global relationships, most recently the book *Rooted in Faith and Justice: Christian Calls to Conscience & Cries for Peace in Palestine* (Chalice Press, 2024).

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.***