

Lakewood Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation
1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Baptism of Christ Sunday

January 11, 2026 · 10:00 AM

Cover Image: detail of LCC Baptismal Font
Liturgy: Adapted from Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins | UCC Worship Ways

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

Many: God has named us all “Beloved.”

One: Yes, here and now, God’s love is being poured out anew.

Many: May this belovedness shape our hearts and minds.

One: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

Many: And may it shape our words and work into Good News for the world!

***Opening Hymn**

#231

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

***Prayer of Invocation** (in unison)

Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. In your name, Amen.

Anthem

Derek Hakes

Fairest Lord Jesus
LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation

6th-12th graders and their leaders can leave at this time for their faith formation classes for the rest of the service. There are faith formation classes today for pre-K thru 5th graders for the whole service.

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

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

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)

O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Beth Abbott

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will

not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Who Are the Chosen Ones?

*Closing Hymn

#97

Fairest Lord Jesus

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.*