

## **Affirmation of Welcome**

**We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.**

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are male, female, or transgender,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,

Or a life-long member of the UCC,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities,

**You Are Welcome Here!**

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

**We welcome one another to this place,  
even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!**

### **WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS**

We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour:

- ✧ Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery.
- ✧ Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers.
- ✧ Crayons and paper for children are also available from ushers.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

### **Office Hours:**

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00**

**Church Phone: 440-526-4364**

**e-mail: [buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## MARCH 29, 2015 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT/PALM SUNDAY

### **Meditation Music**

Loving Holy One, in the unfolding drama of Life, you are there offering us choices to engage or disengage in what is going on around us. Help us to know when to move, to be guided by your Spirit, and to be ready to show up and work for your Realm of Compassion and Peace.  
Amen

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**

Promenade

Mussorgsky

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **\*Processional Gospel**

L: When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a donkey that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say, 'The teacher has need of it.' "

**P: So those who were sent departed and found it as Jesus had told them.**

L: Then they brought the donkey to Jesus; and after throwing their garments on it, they set Jesus upon it.

**P: As he rode along, most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.**

L: As he approached the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

**All: "Hosanna to the Heir of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!"**

L: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, order your followers to stop."

**P: But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these people were silent, the stones themselves would shout out."**

L: This is the Good News for today!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### **\*Processional of Palms**

**Bearing the Light of Peace**

**Bearing the Life of Christ**

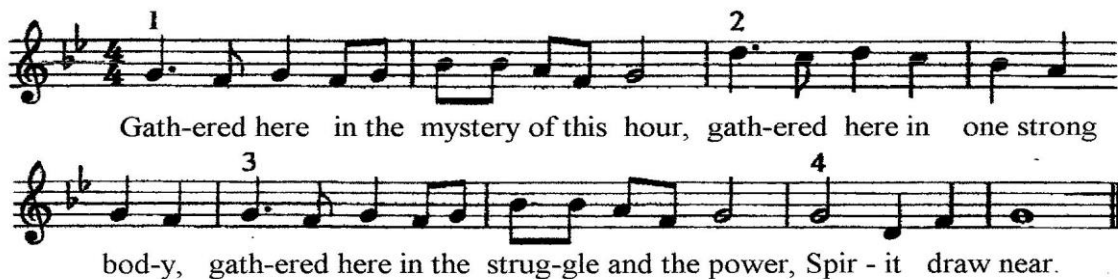
**\* Prayer of Invocation** [unison]

Gracious Holy One, just as Jesus was joyfully greeted as he entered Jerusalem, so may we too welcome him into our hearts and lives today. Grant that we may open ourselves to hear your Good News of peace, welcome, and grace that Jesus brought as your Messenger and Prophet. This we pray in the name of the One who comes to serve and to save. Amen.

**\*Song of Praise**

**Gathered Here** [sung twice]

**#742**



**The Old Testament**

Isaiah 50:4-9

Pew Bible, page 681

**The New Testament**

Philippians 2:3-11

Pew Bible, page 197

**The Continuing Testament** *Palming off the Donkey King*

by Peter Woods

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Shout, Sing, Celebrate!

Raney

**Sermon**

*O, the Stories They Could Tell!*

Pastor Dave Shackle

[Betsey Wilson, Becky Anderson, flute; Pastor Dave, trumpet;  
Youth Percussion Group with Bob Chandler, Donn Whyte and Jim Demko]

**Hymn of Reflection**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

#215

***The Church at Prayer***

**Silent Meditation**

**Prayers of the Church**

**Our Lord's Prayer** [the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to One's

*Theological understanding]*

**...Our Father-Mother, 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.**

## **Organ Response**

### ***Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings***

#### **The Invitation**

**Offertory**                      Sanctus and Benedictus (from St. Celia Mass)                      Gounod

#### **\* Offertory Hymn [Unison]**

**We now are in the time of Lent,  
To learn again what Jesus meant.  
His life and message are so great,  
We send these gifts to celebrate! Amen!**

#### **\* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Compassionate Holy One, in the shadow of the Cross we stand in humble awe.  
As we remember Jesus Christ graciously giving himself for our sakes, we are  
overwhelmed. Grant that we may faithfully follow his example and fully give  
ourselves to your mission of reconciliation, justice, and peace. We pray that you  
would bless our gifts and bless us, that both gift and giver may be used in your  
service and in service to others. Amen.**

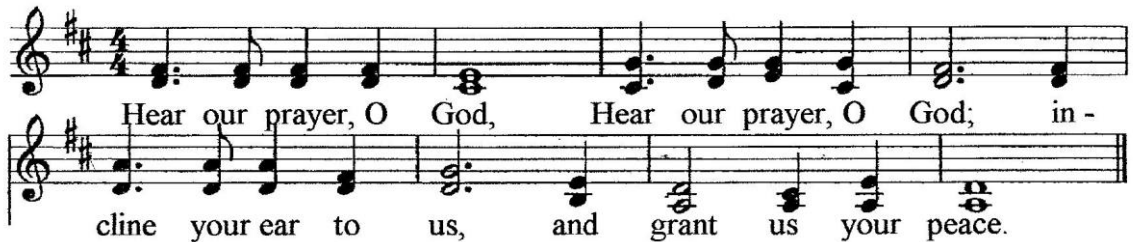
### ***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure**                      All Glory, Laud, and Honor                      #216

**\*Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**                      Acolyte

**\* Circle of Community**

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Hear our Prayer, O God.** After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.



### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Festive March

Smart

### **PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

The Family of Nancy Allenson, Dan Renovetz, G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)

Attendance Sunday, March 22, 2015 – Adults: 77 Kids: 17 Total: 90

### ***BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

**WE WELCOME VISITING PARENTS** -- We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour: Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery. Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers. Crayons and paper are also available from ushers for children.

**A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION** in the Church is to “put away” hymns or verses that contain “Alleluia”, in order to set a more solemn tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday our “Alleluias” can ring-out with renewed

power and glory, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different “Song of Praise” and concluding Benediction hymn today.

### **HOLY WEEK/EASTER OPPORTUNITIES AT BUCC:**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Maunday Thursday Soup Supper at 6:30. 7:00 Celebration of Christ's Last Supper and reenacting Christ's example washing his disciple's feet.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:00 pm. Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Holy Saturday - Saint Bridget Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
[The Community of Saint Bridget is the group that holds Mass here on Saturdays, led by Ann Klonowski and Mary Collingwood.]

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter morning Sunrise Service at 6:45 at Highland Cemetery. Easter Celebration Service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary.

**A SIMPLE STEP TOWARD A WARM WELCOME!** On Easter Sunday, and on subsequent Sundays, our BUCC members can help extend a sign of hospitality to our guests, by parking in the Central School lot next door. This simple act frees up spaces for those who may be joining us for the first time and are unaware of that option. It could even make the difference between a late-arriving visitor leaving in frustration, or joining us for worship!

**MUSIC REHEARSALS THIS WEEK:** Joyful Noise Choir will meet on Thursday from 5:30 to 6:00 to prepare for Easter. The adult choir will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday before soup supper to practice the anthem for Maundy Thursday. Adult choir will rehearse for Easter on Sat. April 4 at 10 a.m. This practice should not last longer than an hour. Instrumentalists for Easter, including percussion, are encouraged to attend.

**EASTER FLOWER deadline is today!** Please see the last page of the Bulletin for an order form, or if you need another, they are on the Bookcase in the Commons area.

### **IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT OUR BIG BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!**

Brecksville United Church of Christ is turning 200 years old in 2016, and yes, it's a *really* big deal! Join us Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> after worship for a BRIEF discussion on possible ad-hoc ministry meeting times and days (bring your calendar). Both new and long-standing members are needed for this fun committee; everyone can participate in this once in a lifetime celebration! Feel free to email your participation availability and ideas to [BetseyWilson10@gmail.com](mailto:BetseyWilson10@gmail.com).

**BICENTENNIAL QUILT** Mark your calendars – April 12<sup>th</sup> downstairs after the church service – the quilt committee members would like to greet you. We will have a table set up

with fabric quilt samples, muslin squares to hand out and welcome conversations about the proposed bicentennial quilt.

**USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES** We collect used printer cartridges and Recycle them to turn in to Office Max for credit toward our office supplies. Please put your empty cartridge in the Office in a basket marked **“Max”** We appreciate your help!

**COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY** will be making a video presentation of our Affirmation of Welcome along with some testimonies from parishioners about why they love BUCC on Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday! We will be using these for our website. No need to sign up...just be at church and be your amazing self. You will not be included unless you have signed a media waiver (available in the narthex or from the office) Look for Kate Klonowski (she will have forms available as well) and her trusty iPhone to become an internet ambassador for our great community!

**MOTHER’S DAY COLLECTION** on Sunday, May 10th, 2015, we will be collecting donations for Womankind, an organization who provides comprehensive prenatal care to pregnant women in need. Your family can pick up a baby bottle in the narthex to take home and collect loose change (or a check would be lovely!) Your financial donations go a long way!

***Other “wish list” items include:***

Helpful donation items in high demand include: Office Max/Giant Eagle/Sam’s Club gift cards; Diapers-all sizes; Baby Wipes; Similac Advance with Iron (this type of formula only please); "Forever" postage stamps; baby clothes; maternity clothes and furniture (no toys, please!). Womankind provides all of their services at no cost. Thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions, concerns or need to arrange a large pickup, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or [keightykay@gmail.com](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com).

## ***The Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Isaiah 50:4-9**

The Holy One has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Holy One has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Holy One helps me, therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; the One who exonerates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand

up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Holy One who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

### **The New Testament - Philippians 2:3-11**

*Saint Paul writes*, Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

### **The Continuing Testament - *Palming off the Donkey King* - by Peter Woods [edited]**

There is a question that keeps tapping at the window of my mind and it will not let me duck it: “Why does Jesus accept the designation as king on Palm Sunday, when he has spent his entire public ministry avoiding it?” I have begun to dig around for some possible insights and this is what I have found. Jesus could not accept the association with Kingship and rule until he had opportunity to correct the popular experience and understanding of what that meant. Lord knows, the current exemplars of kingship and rule were far from Jesus’ concept. The two Herods in his lifetime, Quirinius, Pilate, and of course the Caesars of Rome, modeled their leadership from the same Machiavellian mud. [Yes I know Machiavelli doesn’t time synch, but what a fun alliteration!] For them, kingship meant power, control, and brutal consequences for those who dissented.

This was not what Jesus wanted to be associated with, so he avoids being proclaimed king until he has had time to reorient his disciples’ understanding of kingship. In three and a half years he has modeled what kings are intended to do for their people. He has healed the broken and restored them to full participation in community. He has forgiven those who missed the mark of required ethical and religious standards. He has raised and healed children to break the bondage of bad theology that blamed bad things on parental conditions and culture. He has raised the dead so as to offer new life and hope. He has been inclusive, unconditionally accepting, and restorative in his words and actions. This is who kings and rulers are meant to be; and now it is time for Jesus to own that model, and to set the highest example of what it means to lead within the Kingdom of God.



## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, March 29</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service/ <b>Palm Sunday</b>
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	6 pm	Youth Ministry
<b>Tuesday, March 31</b>	10-11:30 am	CWRU
	7:15 pm	Lenten Study
<b>Wednesday, April 1</b>	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
<b>Thursday, April 2</b>		<b>Maunday Thursday</b>
	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Soup Supper
	7 pm	<b>Holy Communion &amp; Feet Washing Service</b>
<b>Friday, April 3</b>	7 pm	<b>Good Friday Service</b>
<b>Saturday, April 4</b>	9 am	Facilities
	8:30 pm	<b>Easter Vigil with The Community Of St. Bridget</b>
<b>Sunday, April 5</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
	6:45 am	<b>Sunrise Service</b> – Highland Cemetery
	10:00 am	<b>Easter Celebration Worship</b>
	11:00am	Coffee Hour

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**MARCH 29, 2015**

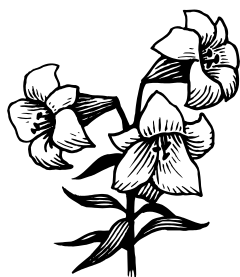
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>David Pastor</b>
<b>Head Usher:</b>	<b>Evie Novak</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Spencer Whyte, Matt Wolbert Darlene Kelly, Heidi Spangler</b>
<b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>Courtnei Began</b>
<b>Peace Cndl:</b>	<b>Carli Began</b>
<b>Sound:</b>	<b>Doug Fawcett</b>
<b>Comms Grtr:</b>	<b>Wes Novak</b>
<b>Narthex Grtr:</b>	<b>Kathy Pastor</b>
<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Peg Duffy</b>
<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Jim Duffy, Jan Renovetz</b>
<b>Servers:</b>	<b>Carole Snider, Joanne Cooke</b>
<b>Clean-Up:</b>	<b>Anne Melfo, Doug Fawcett</b>
<b>Snacks:</b>	<b>Beth Rehling, Susan Snyder</b>
<b>Snow Hrdr:</b>	<b>Wes Novak</b>

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**APRIL 5, 2015**

<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>David Ritchey</b>
<b>Head Usher:</b>	<b>Max Roha</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Sam Koch, Ed Lusk Carole &amp; George Snider</b>
<b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>Courtnei Began</b>
<b>Peace Cndl:</b>	<b>Carli Began</b>
<b>Sound:</b>	<b>Doug Fawcett</b>
<b>Comms Grtr:</b>	<b>Chad Sproul</b>
<b>Narthex Grtr:</b>	<b>Joanne Cook</b>
<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>EASTER LILIES</b>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Marla Corrado</b>
<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Nancy Stella, Anna Mary Fisher</b>
<b>Servers:</b>	<b>Joy Garapic, Caroline Chandler</b>
<b>Clean Up:</b>	<b>Kathy &amp; David Pastor</b>
<b>Snacks:</b>	<b>Justin Smith &amp; Jon Thompson</b>
<b>Snow Hrdr:</b>	<b>Cliff Cribbs</b>

**CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANTUARY**



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

**DEADLINE – SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

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**I Enclose \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ or other \_\_\_\_\_ for Easter Plants**

**In Memory \_\_\_\_\_ or Honor \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_**

**Of \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter \_\_\_\_\_**

**WILL KEEP FLOWERS \_\_\_\_\_**  
**WILL NOT KEEP FLOWERS \_\_\_\_\_**