

# BRECKSVILLE

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## UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People  
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Divine Source of Justice and Mercy, as Jesus brought hope and help to the poor, the sick, and the downtrodden, may we also reach out to people in need. Inspire and empower us to speak out against systems that perpetuate poverty, ignorance, and injustice - that your Reign of love and mercy might spread throughout the earth. Amen.



Come  
to me  
and I  
will  
give  
you  
rest.

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**Sunday September 6, 2015 • 10:00 AM**

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Pastor*

• Rev David Shackle

*Director of Music*

• David Debick

*Financial Secretary*

• Joy Garapic

*Ministers*

All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

## **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)**

# September 6, 2015 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, may we learn to focus on your ever-present respect for your Creation and for all that lives within it. May we follow the example of Jesus, who talked about seeds and sparrows, about hope and trust, and who embraced the world and all people with a Divine compassion and grace. Amen

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

## Prelude

God of All Nations, Grant Me Grace *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561  
"Give me thy courage, God, to speak  
whenever strong oppress the weak.  
Should I myself the victim be,  
help me forgive, rememb'ring thee."  
Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.

## Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Life of Christ

### \* Call to Worship

Leader: When our lives seem hopeless or dreary, the Divine Spirit shines forth!

**People: We are here to seek light among the darkness, fulfillment out of our brokenness.**

L: The Holy One calls us from separation and apathy, to love and faith.

**P: We have come to find healing and peace, to experience forgiveness and acceptance.**

L: In the midst of the ordinary, the Sacred One comes; in our day-to-day living, the Divine Spirit inspires us!

**P: The Holy One is our shelter, our strength, and our guide!**

L: Let us hope and trust in the abundance of Divine Grace,

**All: For the Holy One is with us, now and forevermore!**

### \* Hymn of Praise

From All That Dwell below the Skies

#27

### \* Prayer of Confession [Unison]

**Gracious Holy One, you call us to be your One Family, to care for your world and all within it. You challenge us to feed the hungry, heal the hurting, and bring hope and comfort where there is grief and despair.**

Forgive us when we fail to do so. Mend our broken human family. By your Spirit, breathe into us the power of your abundant love and grace, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Brother, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

**\* The Assurance of Pardon**

L: People of Faith, rejoice and give thanks! The Holy Spirit is here with compassion and power to heal our brokenness, forgive our sins, and fill us with newness of life and purpose!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\* Passing the Peace**

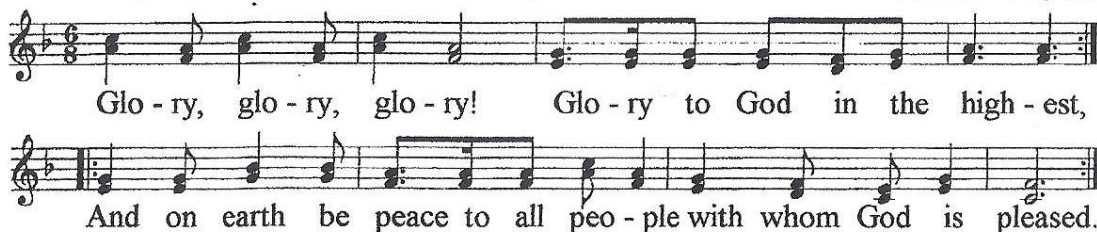
L: As forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you all!

**P: And also with you!**

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,  
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

**The Old Testament**

Amos 8:4-12

Pew Bible, p. 856

**The New Testament**

James 2:1-8; 15-17

Pew Bible, p. 229

**The Continuing Testament**

*from Amos: From Personal Piety to Social Justice*

by Daniel Clendenin

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

You Raise Me Up

Lovland/Graham

[*Mary D'Agostino, alto*]

**Sermon**

*Labor Pains*

Pastor Dave Shackle

**Hymn of Reflection**

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

#516

***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

Voluntary

Alcock

#### \*Offertory Hymn

We bring our gifts because we care,  
They are a part of what we share.  
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.  
With hearts of love we share our gifts. Amen.

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

We remember and give thanks, Gracious Holy One, that you provide for all of our needs. Your love strengthens and sustains us. Your bounty makes possible our giving of self and substance. Help us to be truly generous, that we may inspire generosity in others. Use us and our gifts for your loving service, that your blessings might freely flow. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who lovingly gave himself for us all. Amen.

### *Holy Communion*

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

#342

#### The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!

L: Because you show us your perfect Love in the person of Jesus Christ, who endured the Cross for the sake of us all, it is right that we should give you thanks and praise, saying,

All: Holy, holy, holy, Source of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O Holy One Most High!

## Words of Institution

## Prayer of Consecration

## The Invitation

## Receiving the Bread and Cup

## Communion Music

Satisfied

Williams

"Well of water, ever springing,  
Bread of life so rich and free,  
Untold wealth that never faileth,  
My Redeemer is to me."  
Ralph E. Hudson

## Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

**Holy Spirit of New Life, with joy we have received this Sacrament of Bread and Cup, remembering the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unite us with your faithful people throughout the world, that together we may continue Christ's ministry of love and service to our sisters and brothers wherever they may be. Amen.**

## *Going with God's Love*

### \* Hymn of Departure

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name  
[verse 1]

#80

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

Acolyte

### \* Circle of Community



**WOMEN UNITED** Our next Meeting is on September 16th at 11:30 AM in the Parlor. Bring lunch and a friend. Dorie Gabor will present a few of the basics of floral arranging. Coffee and tea are provided.

**SERVER CORRECTION** Sunday September 27, the Servers are Robin Coyer-Westerberg, and Joanne Cook.

**DIRECTORY UPDATES** Please let us know if you moved, changed phone numbers, or email address. We will be printing out an updated Directory in the near future. Please call the Office at 440-526-4364, or email Jeannette [buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net).

**MUSIC MINISTRY** - BUCC's music program will be shifting into full gear after Labor Day. Here are the starting dates and times for our various ensembles:

Adult Choir (high school students welcome): Thurs. Sept. 10 from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Joyful Noise Choir (K-5th grade): Thurs. Sept. 10 from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble (youth-adult): Wed. Sept. 9 from 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Percussion Group (6th grade-high school, adults welcome): Sunday Sept. 13 from 5:30-6:00 p.m. before youth ministry at 6:00.

Seasonal Choir (high school students welcome): Will begin preparing for this year's Christmas cantata on Thurs. Oct. 8 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Beginner lessons available in soprano recorder, lap dulcimer, and G harmonica; schedule will depend on availability of students/teacher. Contact Dave D. if you're interested in learning any of these fun instruments.

Private piano lessons (youth-adult): Lessons begin Wed. & Thurs. Sept. 9 and 10. Contact Dave if you're not already on the schedule.

Instrumentalists are welcome and invited to share their musical gifts with the congregation during Sunday worship. Please contact Dave so he can keep you in mind when scheduling/arranging music.

More details about the music program can be found in September's Pillar.

**PLEASE BE SURE** to enter your meeting and event schedule on the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the *Weekly Bulletin* and in the *Monthly Pillar*.



## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Amos 8:4-12**

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Holy One has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? On that day, says the Holy One, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only child, and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Holy One, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Holy One. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Holy One, but they shall not find it.

### **The New Testament James 2:1-7; 14-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Example, Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters, has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the Realm that has promised to those who love God? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

....What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**The Continuing Testament** -from *Amos: From Personal Piety to Social Justice* - by Daniel Clendenin [edited]

The prophet Amos broadens the concept of sin beyond the single individual to include corporate institutions. He shows that God cares not only about private lives, but also about the moral actions of institutional systems. Personal piety is important to God, but social justice is perhaps even more so. Only large institutions with complex bureaucracies and vast resources - national governments, Wall Street banks, British Petroleum - can slaughter millions, manipulate global markets, and ravage the planet while privatizing profits. Amos wrote 2,800 years ago, but reading him today feels quite contemporary.

The citizens of Amos' day took patriotic pride in their religiosity, their history as God's favored people, their military conquests, and their economic affluence. Like the minority report, Amos spoke to their national delusions. He was the classic outsider who preached from the unpatriotic fringe. He was blue collar rather than blue blooded. The powerful insiders of his day despised Amos as an unwelcome outsider. Amos describes how the rich trampled the poor, how the affluent flaunted their expensive lotions, elaborate music, and vacation homes with beds of inlaid ivory. He decried corrupt judges selling justice to the highest bidder, predatory lenders exploiting vulnerable families - and above all - religious leaders pronouncing God's blessing on it all.

With Israel at the peak of its power, and having good reasons to believe that no disaster could befall it, Amos preached a counter-intuitive message. To the country's disbelief, he said that Israel was no different than the pagan nations with their war crimes. Convinced of the nobility of their own nation and of the inferiority of foreigners, they found it impossible to understand how others saw them. They considered their country superior in every way, and developed an exaggerated sense of exceptionalism which they invoked to exempt themselves from universal standards that applied to others.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Sunday, Sept. 6</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	2:00 pm	Church Picnic
<b>Monday, Sept. 7</b>	<b>Labor Day – Office Closed</b>	
<b>Wed, Sept 9</b>	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
	7:00 pm	Council
<b>Thurs, Sept 10</b>	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
<b>Sunday, Sept 13</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service - <b>RALLY DAY!</b>
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	<b>*Hunger Meal PRUMC*</b>	

### PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

Lay Reader:	David Ritchey	Narx Grtr:	Joanne Cook
Head Usher:	Jon Thompson	Flowers:	Betty Gifford
Ushers:	Stu & Dot Bailey	Nursery:	Gina Cook
	Chad & Bridget Sproul	Counters:	Betty Kaul, Nancy Stella
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis	Servers:	Joy Garapic, Dorie Gabor
Peace Candle:	Drew Demko	Clean Up:	David & Kathy Pastor
Sound:	David Bernard	Snacks:	Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson
Comns Grtr:	Sue Stenzel		

### PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

Lay Reader:	Tia Began	Narx Grtr:	Jill Zedan
Head Usher:	Kathy Smith	Flowers:	Marla Corrado
Ushers:	Jim Duffy, Sam Koch	Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
	Sue Maier, Lindsey Maier	Counters:	Donn Whyte, David Pastor
Acolyte:	Ryan Stewart	Servers:	Sue Stenzel,
Peace Candle:	Carli Began		Caroline Chandler
Sound:	Doug Fawcett	Clean-up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Comns Grtr:	Ann Kelley	Snacks:	Kate Klonowski, Sue Maier

**A Prayer for Workers  
Loving, Working God**

**On this Sunday we ask your special blessing on all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, in the workplace or at home, in the U.S. and around the world.**

**We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us.**

**Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old.**

**A world where all workers are valued.**

**A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.**

**A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.**

**A world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves, also served and cared for.**

**We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.**

**We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.**

**Amen.**