

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16th, 2021

*"Few delights can equal the mere presence
of one whom we trust utterly."*

-- George MacDonald (1824-1905) Scottish author, poet, minister

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshiping with us today in this Zoom format! We are doing everything we can to keep the service open to all, yet secure. In the eventuality of a disruption of the service, we will email information on how to re-enter the service with a password.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - We encourage you to share this service with your children, as well as take part in the virtual activities with **Ms. Mindy** at **9:30** (1/2 hour before every service). The link for this can be found in the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website: <https://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

FLOWERS – Upon reopening the church, we are looking for anyone who is willing to help provide or arrange flowers for Sundays. If you are interested, please contact **Janet Renovetz** at **(330)-467-9357**.

AS WE LOOK TO RE-OPEN -- AND MORE! There have been some great ideas for additional services and events, but the Spiritual Life committee is a very small group right now, so even the smallest amount of help is welcome! Please reach out to **Sue Maier** at eyerienne@aol.com, or **Betsey Wilson** at betseywilson10@gmail.com, so we can talk about how you can participate in this ministry. Help us make 2021 the year that we come back stronger and better than ever!

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - We will begin reading our next book, ***Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women that a Movement Forgot***, by Mikki Kendall, in June sometime. A schedule has not been determined, but may depend on the reopening schedule. A reading schedule with discussion questions will be announced in the coming days. We encourage you to purchase your book from a local bookseller if possible!

Please reach out to **Kate Klonowski** by calling or texting **(216) 534-3498**, or by email at keightykay@gmail.com, with any questions.

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

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

ou Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual
orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed,
or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic
circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions,
impairments, or mobility needs,

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!***

Announcements

YOUR VIDEOS: The Stewardship committee is looking for anyone who wants to contribute a “Mission Moment Movie Minute” for our virtual church services. A 30-60 second video clip of anything related to mission, stewardship, giving or receiving. Make a quick video of something wonderful that someone has done for you or the community. Have your kids make a mini-movie of themselves helping a neighbor or picking up trash in the neighborhood. Or just tell us why you love the BUCC! Send it in to the **church email (buccoffice23@gmail.com)**, and we’ll put it in an upcoming virtual service – thanks in advance!

LENTEN FUNDRAISER – This year’s CE Lenten project (handpainted/colored key chains) is raising money for the Cleveland Foodbank. If you’re interested in supporting this effort, our kids’ creations are available during the “Still Speaking Events” (details in next announcement). If you’re interested but not able to attend a parking lot meeting, call **Anne at 440-526-4364** to make other arrangements. Our kids have been working on these since February, so please consider supporting their fundraiser - thank you!

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS* - Weather permitting, we will have parking lot meetings at the church this week – they are scheduled for Tuesday (5/18) at 10am, and Thursday (5/20) at 5pm. This is a chance for members and guests to safely share time together.

***NOTE:** All are welcome to join us and follow the guidelines below for a safe but enjoyable event:

✔ **Masks are required for participation.** ✔ **Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating.** ✔ **You may bring a beverage or snack, but please no sharing with other households.** ✔ **Restrooms will not be available and the BUCC building will be closed.** ✔ **Please enjoy each other’s company but remain 6 feet apart.**

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11am and noon. You can contact him either by mail, email or phone - feel free to call either the church or his cell phone directly. You can also catch him online, by clicking on the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday services. He’d love to hear from you! Here’s his contact information:

- BUCC address: **23 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141**
- Email: **buccpastor23@gmail.com**
- BUCC office phone: **(440) 526-4364**
- Pastor Allan’s cell phone: **(513) 417-1537**
- Zoom link: **<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>**

WEEKLY COLLECTION is still happening! Please don’t forget to send in your pledges to the church by mail or (preferably) PayPal! Check out **BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving** for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or assist in other ways with our virtual services (it’s very easy!), please reach out to **Heidi Spangler** at **heidi@heidihoonthego.com**. We’d love to teach you. ☺

COFFEE HOUR! After the service, we welcome all attendees to stay on Zoom to enjoy some time and fellowship with each other. Brew your favorite fairly-traded coffee or tea and a snack and catch up with friends!

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: *"If today is not your day, then be happy, for this day shall never return. And if today is your day, then be happy now for this day shall never return."* —from **God, Does Humanity Exist?**, by Kamand Kojouri

Prelude: *L'Ascension: 1. Majesty of Christ Beseeking His Glory of the Almighty* Messiaen
New York Philharmonic Orchestra; Leopold Stokowsky, conductor
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv0b8drKcag>

Call to Worship:

- ♦ Leader (Diane): God calls you into the divine presence.
- ♦ **People (Janet): We hear the call. We heed the presence.**
- ♦ Leader: God calls you to be present.
- ♦ **People: We bring our worries and our concerns and we lay them before God, so that we can be fully present in this moment of worship.**
- ♦ Leader: God calls you in the present.
- ♦ **People: God has been with us in the past, and will be with us in the future, but the present is the only place we can live. God is here now. Let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise: ***Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise*** Jones

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise to a throne in paradise;
Christ the Lamb for sinners giv'n, enters now the highest heav'n.
2. Christ, for you high triumph waits, lift your heads, eternal gates!
You have conquered death and sin; you, our Sovereign, enter in!
3. See! The nail-marked hands above; sing of God's redeeming love;
Hark! Christ's words our hearts assure: "I will send a Comforter!"
(Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

People (Janet): Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name, there he is in their midst. We are two, and three, and many, and we gather in this electronic space in your name, O Jesus our Christ. Let us know your presence. Let us feel your breath through the Spirit's power. Let our hearts be strangely warmed when we hear the words of forgiveness that come after our confession. We do confess that we have fallen short, gone astray, crossed that line, missed the mark. People have been hurt by our words and deeds. Forgive us in your grace, and make us better in your mercy. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ♦ **Leader (Diane):** As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed the sins of those who love God, who trust in God's mercy from everlasting to everlasting.
- ♦ **People (Janet):** Thanks be to God, who sticks with us from first to last, who corrects us when we do wrong, who raises us up when we have fallen. Thanks be for the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

Song of Praise:

Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!
 Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!
 And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.
 And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.

Readings

First Reading:

Luke 24: 44-53 *The First Telling of the Ascension of Jesus*

Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things."

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

Second Reading

Acts 1: 1-11 *A Closer Look at the Ascension*

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

Contemporary Reading: “*Christ’s presence*”, from *The Church of Mercy*, by Pope Francis

“Jesus no longer belongs to the past but lives in the present and is projected toward the future; Jesus is the everlasting ‘today’ of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples, and all of us: as victory over sin, evil, and death – over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you, dear sister, you, dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead?’ Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!”

Musical Offering: *Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus* Beethoven (From Oratorio "Christ on the Mount of Olives") Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus; Robert Shaw, director https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGOv3Mcg_OM

Sermon: *Jesus Present* Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:***Beautiful Jesus***

Silesian folk melody

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|---|---|
| 1. Beautiful Jesus, Head of all creation,
God and the blessed Mary's child:
I want to love you, praise and adore you,
joy of my soul, so long desired. | 2. Beautiful springtime, lovely, green, and hopeful,
all earth exhales its sweet perfume:
Jesus is sweeter, Jesus is purer,
sad hearts at this, rejoice and bloom. |
|---|---|
3. Beautiful sunshine, clear, so lovely, moonlight,
 stars shine like angels, ranked through space:
 Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer,
 in perfect beauty, love, and grace.

(Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993)

The Church at Prayer

Lois Lorenzo, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., David Pastor, Bill Toneff, Lenore Harris, Cindy Burton, Ann Roha, Ann Klonowski, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Sheila Day, Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassy Matsuka, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

† **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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**The Invitation:**

- ♦ Leader (Diane): A great part of being a disciple is simply showing up for God and for our neighbors wherever there is a need. Let us present our presents and our presence to God.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

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 joy we share our gifts. Amen

Prayer of Dedication:

- ◆ People (Janet): So many people suffer in this world from absence: an absence of food or shelter; an absence of acceptance and love; an absence of resources and friends. May these offerings be a gift of presence for those who are suffering from absence. Amen



Holy Communion

- † The Invitation
- † Prayer of Consecration
- † Words of Institution
- † Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

- ◆ People (Janet): We thank you, O Jesus our Savior, that you have made yourself present with us once more by the Spirit's power through the bread and the wine. Dwell in us with conviction and substance so that we are truly changed by this holy sacrament. Amen

Hymn of Departure:

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

Prichard

Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831

1. Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!
Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation you've redeemed us by your blood.
2. Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received you when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget your promise, "I am with you evermore."
3. Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.

(William C. Dix, 1867; alt.)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Circle of Community



† Benediction

Postlude:

I'll Fly Away

Brumley

Alison Krauss & Gillian Welch, vocalists

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BPoMIQHwpo>

Special Thanks:

May 16, 2021

Lay Reader	Diane Gressley
Responder	Janet Renovetz
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Jim Duffy
Zoom Host	Sue Maier

May 23, 2021

Lay Reader	Matt Wolbert
Responder	Sherrill Wit
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Jim Duffy
Zoom Host	Heidi Spangler

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!