

TRINITY SUNDAY

May 30th, 2021

"I think it is a good thing that the Trinity is confusing. If it weren't, we wouldn't have the desire to learn more." –Julie Warner

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**.

REOPENING PLANS! The COVID-19 "numbers" are improving so much that the Governor has stopped the reporting of "Orange" and "Red" Ohio counties. Many of us are now fully vaccinated. Therefore, we will reopen in a safe, socially distant way, gathering together in the church, while also providing a way for those who cannot attend to participate. The **current target date** to reopen our doors is **June 13** – we will also live stream* for those who would prefer to remain virtual.

Since the public health situation and these guidelines are ever evolving, we are not announcing the exact in-person procedures until the week before, hopefully avoiding confusion.

*By "Live Stream", we mean a live broadcast of our service over YouTube, rather than through Zoom. Unfortunately, we will not be ready to do this next week (June 6), as stated in the June Pillar.

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!

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

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

you 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - On June 3rd, we will begin discussing our next book, Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women that a Movement Forgot, by Mikki Kendall. 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.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES! We're making the switch to gmail – please see the following list of new email address for the BUCC staff:

- General Office (Anne Melfo): **buccoffice23@gmail.com**
- Pastor (Allan Lane, Interim): **buccpastor23@gmail.com**
- Donations/Expenses (Joy Garapic): **buccfinance23@gmail.com**
- Music Ministry (David Debick): **buccmusic23@gmail.com**

Please make this change to the information in your email contacts list.

MISSION MOMENT MOVIE MINUTE - The Stewardship committee is still accepting video clips. 30-60 seconds 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!!

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS* - Weather permitting, we will have parking lot meetings at the church this week – they are scheduled for Tuesday (6/1) at 10am, and Thursday (6/3) 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>**

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: *"In the seventh century, John of Damascus described the relationship of the three persons of God as perichoresis. This word literally means 'the circle dance'." –Tobin Wilson*

Prelude:

Three in One and One in Three

Filitz

David Debick, piano

*"Three in One and One in Three,
Ruler of the earth and sea,
Hear us, while we lift to Thee
Holy chant and psalm. Amen"
Gilbert Rorison (1821-1869)*

Call to Worship:

- ♦ Leader (Cliff): God the Parent calls you into worship!
- ♦ **People (Kathy): With a parent's love God never gives up on us or lets us go.**
- ♦ Leader: God the Son calls you into worship!
- ♦ **People: The Son became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and love.**
- ♦ Leader: The Holy Spirit calls you into worship!
- ♦ **People: Come, Spirit, with wind and flames and inspire our worship. Let us worship God, one in three, three in one!**

Hymn of Praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Dykes

1. Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,
From the beginning, God eternally.
4. Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
(Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ♦ **People (Kathy):** Holy, Holy, Holy, God of awesome power and awesome love, we come before you in thanksgiving and appreciation for all that you are. In this unimaginably huge universe we are unimaginably small, yet you care for us and you care about us. Our actions and our intentions have moral value before you. Our thoughts and our deeds have meaning in the great scheme of your plan. Encourage us when we walk in the right way and bring more good into the universe. Forgive us when we walk in the wrong way and take good out of the universe. We ask it through the power of the Spirit, in the name of the one who became flesh and walked among us, to the glory of the Parent who guides it all. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ♦ **Leader (Cliff):** God creates us, God redeems us, God sustains us in all we do. God is our life.
- ♦ **People (Kathy):** God is our life in this world and in the world to come. God's love for us in Jesus Christ, confirmed to our hearts by the Holy Spirit, offers us full forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God! 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, for God loves us all!
 And on earth be peace to all people, for God loves us all!

Generosity Mission Moment — *Presented by Carol Miller & Pat Rehm*

Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Isaiah sees the thrice-holy God

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Second Reading (read by Allan)

John 3: 1-17

Jesus hints at a Trinitarian reality

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Contemporary Reading

*“The Trinity: always more of God”, from **Every Disciple’s Journey: Following Jesus to a God-Focused Faith**, by Thomas R. Steagald*

“Father, Son and Holy Spirit remind us that there is always more of God than we can explain, always more of God than we can show. The Trinity says God is not in a box but is bigger, much bigger than we can imagine. God is more powerful than we sometimes want to believe or remember but in remembering there is great comfort.”

Musical Offering: ***Blessed Angel Spirits (Hymn to the Trinity)*** Tchaikovsky
(Choir not identified online)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n42dr-NA1g>

Sermon:

Speaking of God

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *Creating God, Creating Still* Croft

1. Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,
Create a new humanity to meet the present need.
2. Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace,
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a holy place.
3. Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day,
Empower us now to do your will. Correct us when we stray.
4. Great Triune God, for this new day we need your presence still.
Create, redeem, sustain us now to do your work and will.
(Jane Parker Huber, 1977; rev. 1993)

The Church at Prayer

David Pastor, Lois Lorenzo, Terry Heiman, Kathy Smith, Joanne K., 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, Dassie Matsuoka, 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 (Cliff): The Trinitarian essence of God is to be in community and relationship. When we are in relationship with others in our community, we are like God in a small way. Let us present our gifts and offerings to create and maintain relationships in our community for 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 (Kathy): John of Damascus called the relationship between the persons of the Trinity a dance. May these gifts call us and our community into a dance together with each other and with God. Amen

Hymn of Departure:

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774

1. Holy God, we praise your name; Sovereign God, we bow before you;
All on earth your scepter claim, all the heavenly hosts adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.
3. All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name you,
While in essence truly one, undivided God we claim you;
So we gather reverently to adore the mystery. **(last line twice)**
(Anon., German, c. 1774; transl. C. A. Walworth; alt.)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Circle of Community

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

† Benediction

Postlude: *Improvisation on "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"*
Viennese Catholic songbook, c. 1774
David Debick, organ



Special Thanks:

May 30, 2021

Lay Reader	Cliff Cribbs
Responder	Kathy Smith
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	David Pastor

June 6, 2021

Lay Reader	Cliff Cribbs
Responder	Sue Stenzel
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Jim Duffy

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!