



Brecksville

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***

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people"

- Martin Luther
King, Jr.



Sunday July 11, 2021 • 10:00 AM
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Substitute Pastor
• Rob Grow

Director of Music
• David Debick

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic

Office Manager
• Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

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!***



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

July 11th, 2021

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation Music

“Silence becomes cowardice when the occasion demands speaking out the whole truth and acting accordingly.” - Mahatma Gandhi

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Take My Life

Frances Havergal

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship: (Psalm 85:8-13)**

Leader: Let me hear what Yahweh our God will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

People: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear God, that God's glory may dwell in our land.

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

People: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Leader: Yahweh will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

People: Righteousness will go before god, and will make a path for god's steps.

Hymn of Praise: *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder* #558, v. 1, 2 & 4

1. O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth,
God, who wrought creation's splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.

2. When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power displayed,
Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.

4. O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land,
God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned!
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.

Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed.
(Music: Traditional Dutch melody, arr. J. Röntgen; text: Curtis Beach, 1958; rev. 1980; alt.)

* Prayer of Confession: [Unison]

God, we confess to you that we often fall short of showing towards others
the mercy that you show to us. We have not treated others as we would
want to be treated. Be with us as we strive to do better, with your help.

* Words of Assurance:

Leader: God loves us unconditionally. There is nothing we have to do to earn this,
and God is with us to strengthen us as we repent.

People: God is with us now just as God was with us in Jesus Christ. All
thanks be to God. Amen

Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **Amos 7:7-15**

Second Reading **Mark 6:14-29**

Contemporary Reading Excerpt from “Letter From Birmingham Jail”,
From ***Why We Can’t Wait***,
by Martin Luther King Jr.

Musical Offering ***Brother James's Air*** James L. M. Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob
Evelyn Seager, soprano

Sermon ***Agitate*** Rob Grow

Hymn of Reflection: ***Let Justice Flow like Streams*** #588

1. Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
2. Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,
An ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.
3. So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.
(Music: Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770; text: J. P. Huber, 1984)

The Church at Prayer

Baby Raegan (hospice at home), Phyllis Hassler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Cook, David Pastor, Lenore Harris, Lois Lorenzo, Terry Heiman, Kathy Smith, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Cindy Burton, Ann Roha, Ann Klonowski, Elizabeth Gadus, 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), Sandra Lane, people who are unemployed and under employed.
(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

The Church at Prayer (continued)

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: Jesus called us friends. As Jesus' friends we are participants in his ministry. Let us give as we are able so that the work of Jesus may continue.

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: [Unison]**

God, may we use these gifts for the helping of the poor, the preaching of your word, and the building of Christ's Rule on this Earth. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *In the Midst of New Dimensions* #391, v.1,3 & 5

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

REFRAIN: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

3. As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. **REFRAIN**

5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. **REFRAIN**

(Music & text: Julian Rush, 1985; alt.)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

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.

† **Peoples' Benediction [Unison]**
Franciscan Prayer for Peace

God, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Sovereign,

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

(The United Methodist Hymnal. The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, 1989)

Postlude

Holy Is the Lord

Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio

Thank you for joining us!

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THANK YOU** to Rob Grow, who is filling in for Pastor Allan this week.
- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go, and thank you for coming!
- **NAMETAGS** – Please wear your nametag, as we have several new members who are just getting to know us! And if you'd like to replace your nametag, please sign the sheet located on the table in the lobby, where the nametags are kept. If you're not familiar with where this is, please feel free to ask the Greeter or an usher for assistance.
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** - We are currently reading ***Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women that a Movement Forgot***, by Mikki Kendall. The next meeting is on Thursday, July 15th at 7 pm - we will continue to meet remotely, via Zoom. If you've been unable to make it so far, it's never too late to join – we'd love to have you! Please feel free to reach out to **Kate Klonowski** by **calling or texting** _____, or by **email** at _____, with any questions.
- **SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM** - We are still recruiting singers and instrumentalists to share their musical gifts with our congregation and guests, over the summer months. If you'd like to volunteer, please let Dave Debick know, so he can mark you on the calendar. He is happy to help volunteers find music, and will rehearse as much or as little as you'd like. Dave can be contacted by cell _____, or at _____.
- **FLOWERS** – 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 _____.
- **PASTOR'S VACATION** – Pastor Allan is on vacation until 7/17. **Pastor John King** is filling in, and can be reached through the **Richfield UCC office** at **330-659-3532**. If you have an emergency (e.g., hospitalization, a death in your family) outside of usual business hours, Pastor John can be reached at _____.

Readings

First Reading **Amos 7:7-15**

This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying:

"Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land."

Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Second Reading **Mark 6:14-29**

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him.

(continued on next page)

Readings

Second Reading (continued)

But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday, Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders, and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Contemporary Reading

Excerpt from "Letter From Birmingham Jail", from ***Why We Can't Wait***, by Martin Luther King Jr.

"Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial 'outside agitator' idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds."

Special Thanks:

JUL 11, 2021

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Sue Stenzel
	Jon Thompson
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Bridget Sproul
Greeter:	Dorie Gabor
Counters:	Betsey Wilson
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sound:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel

JULY 17, 2021

Head Usher:	Sue Maier
Ushers:	Kate Klonowski
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Carol Miller
Greeter:	Pat Rehm
Counters:	Jim Duffy
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sound:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>