



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*

“Science can
purify religion
from error and
superstition.
Religion can
purify science
from idolatry
and false
absolutes.”

—Pope John Paul II



Sunday August 1st, 2021 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Allan Lane

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

August 1st, 2021

Meditation Music

"The religion that is afraid of science dishonors God and commits suicide."

–Ralph Waldo Emerson

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Great Is the Glory of God

Emma Lou Diemer

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: People have looked for God in a telescope, and not found God.

People: People have looked for God in a microscope, and not found God.

Leader: Instead, God calls us into a mystery: that God may be found in the midst of a community, or in the eating of bread and the drinking of wine. God can be found when we surrender ourselves to God's transcendent majesty.

People: God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Godself. May we find God present among us this morning, in the midst of our worship. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise:

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

#400

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.
3. Here renew your servants' vision, that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.
(Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867; text: 6th-8th century Latin; transl. J. M. Neale, 1851; alt.)

*** Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]**

O God of a trillion galaxies, God of charmed and strange quarks, God of worlds and God of humans, we come before you in awe of your creation. How stunning it is that you should care for us when we are so small, compared to the universe you have created! How incredible it is that we are so big, compared to the tiny particles that make up all matter! From the dust of the earth you raised us up through eons of evolution, until at last we were ready to hear from you. Your law guides us to living fully as humans before you, your prophets spoke to tame our animal heritage, your presence among us, in Jesus, leads us to new and higher life. Forgive us when we are too much of the dust, and not enough of the spirit you have put in us. Forgive us and lead us to become all that you envisioned for us, at the moment of creation so long ago. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

Leader: Though our sins might be as red as scarlet, God will make us as clean as the freshly fallen snow, just as God said through Isaiah.

People: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation: the old is gone, and the new has come! Thanks be to God, Creator and Re-creator! Amen

Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

*Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)*

*And on earth be peace to all people,
For God loves us all! (2X's)*

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Lesson Psalm 8 *Humans and the creation*

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan) Mark 9:14-29 *Faith and doubt in a father*

Contemporary Lesson From *A Christian Scientist on Science and Religion*,
by Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project

Musical Offering

What Is This Place

Gary Daigle, b. 1957

(text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; transl. David Smith, b. 1933)

Jan Renovez & Dave Debick, vocalists

Sermon

Can Science and Religion Co-Exist Peacefully?

Pr. Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

#306

1. The church of Christ, in every age
beset by change, but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.
3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

(Music: William Knapp, 1738; text: Fred Pratt Green, 1969)

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of Baby Raegan, David Pastor, Sandra Lane, Lois Lorenzo, Lenore Harris, Phyllis Hassler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Kathy Smith, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Cindy Burton, Ann Roha, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, 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

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.

† Benediction

Postlude

Make a Joyful Noise unto God

Marty Haugen

BUC C ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go, and thank you for coming!
- **STAYING COOL** - Several weeks ago, three of the main air conditioner compressors ceased functioning. As a result, it was necessary to replace them at a cost of \$14,000. If you would like to help defray this unexpected expense, please consider making a gift – please mark it 'Air Conditioner Fund', so that Joy can ensure that it goes to the appropriate fund. Thank you.
- **PROCEDURES DURING SERVICES** – As promised, Spiritual Life has revisited several of the re-opening procedures initially set in place. Singing and responding is now allowed, if you feel comfortable doing so! We are going to continue to encourage congregants to sit in the socially-distanced pew areas, and to bring your own communion (BYOC). Collection plates will remain at the entrance doors. For the time being, our traditional closing circle and coffee hour remain suspended. Thank you for helping us to mindfully ease back into worship!
- **SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM** - We are still recruiting singers and instrumentalists to share their musical gifts with our congregation and guests, for the month of August. 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 **216-408-7949**, or emailed at **buccmusic23@gmail.com**.

Readings

First Lesson

Psalm 8

Humans and the creation

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

Mark 9:14-29

Faith and doubt in a father

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

“You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

“If you can’t?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

(continued on next page)

Readings

Second Lesson (continued by Pastor Allan)

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Contemporary Reading

From ***A Christian Scientist on Science and Religion***, by Francis Collins,
Director of the Human Genome Project

“Many scientists like myself believe in God, but in general we have been rather quiet about our beliefs. I do think that we are at a critical time, however, especially in the United States, in deciding how we are going to seek truth and meaning in life in the 21st century. Clearly, we will need science to help solve a lot of our problems – of illness, of communication systems, of care of our planet. But a purely materialist approach, stripping away the spiritual aspect of humanity, will impoverish us – after all, that has already been tried (in Stalin’s USSR and Mao’s China) and found to be devastating. All truth is God’s truth, and therefore God can hardly be threatened by scientific discoveries. ...As a scientist who is also a believer, I find exploring nature also to be a way of getting a glimpse of God’s mind. You can find God in the laboratory, just as much as in the cathedral.”

Special Thanks:

AUGUST 1, 2021

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Nancy Stella
Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Julie Bernard

AUGUST 8, 2021

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
Greeter: *Volunteer Needed*
Counters: Jim Duffy
Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Tia Began

NOTES
