



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***

*"In a room
where people
unanimously
maintain a
conspiracy of
silence, one
word of truth
sounds like a
pistol shot."*

—Czesław Miłosz



Sunday August 22nd, 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 22nd, 2021

Meditation Music

"Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true." –Robert Brault

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul

Bob Hurd

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: Surround yourself with the spirit of worship: a head bowed in prayer, a heart lifted up, a mind open to God's Word.
- **People: In worship, the love of God encircles us, the mercy of God envelops us, and the strength of God empowers us.**
- Leader: Shake yourself free from spiritual lethargy! Stretch your spiritual muscles and wake your soul up for worship!
- **People: We are ready for God's presence. Let us worship God!**

1. Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2. Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

3. Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

(Music: George J. Elvey, 1868; text: Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.)

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

Jesus, you are the one with the words of eternal life, and so we follow you along the path, even when the path seems hard and uphill. How much easier it would be to have a different calling, one which didn't require us to hold justice in our hearts. How much easier it would be if there were some people we weren't called to embrace with your love. And we know we fall short of these lofty goals sometimes. Justice and love take energy, and sometimes we just don't have enough. We ask your forgiveness for those times. In all that we do, give us the power to live in the shadow of the cross and in the light of the resurrection. We ask it in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader: The bad news is that we have all fallen short of the glory for which God made us. We have all missed the mark and gone astray.**
- **People: But the good news of the gospel is that we are all forgiven in Jesus Christ, and in him we have eternal life. Thanks be to God! 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: Ephesians 6: 10-20 *The full armor of God*

Second Lesson (Pastor Allan): John 6:56-69 *A Hard Saying*

Contemporary Lesson: By Robert Penn Warren *Unexpected Change*

Musical Offering

I Offer My Life

Cloninger/Moen

Allison Colbert, vocalist

Sermon

This Is Not What I Signed Up For

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***Take My Life, God, Let It Be***

#448

1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

3. Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

4. Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now and help me be part of Christ's community.

(Music: Justin H. Knecht, 1797; text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, The Family and Friends of Baby Raegan, Sandra Lane, Lois Lorenzo, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, 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, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, “Edna House”, Jon Thompson, 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: The money we give, the time we spend, the talents we share: they will all make a difference in someone else’s life. But the secret is that our giving, spending, and sharing will make a difference in our lives, too. Let us present our time, talent, and treasure to God.

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]**

These gifts will connect our lives to the lives of others; may all our lives be enriched by what we share. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *God Be with You*

#81, v. 1 & Refrain

1. God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

REFRAIN: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

(Music: William G. Tomer, 1880; text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; 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.

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† Benediction

Postlude

Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being!

C. Hubert H. Parry

WISHING YOU A
BLESSED AND HEALTHY
WEEK AHEAD!

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go, and thank you for coming!

- *****HUNGER MEAL TODAY!*** – Volunteers are still needed** for this afternoon! This time, the meal will take place at the Pearl Road United Methodist Church. Setup begins at 3:30. If you are able to help, please contact **Matt Wolbert** at 216-502-7785 or **mjwolbert@hotmail.com**.

- **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. Many thanks to those who've contributed so far – however, we still have a long way to go! 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** – BUCC Council is committed to adhering to the CDC guidance regarding the pandemic. Based on this, we are asking everyone to kindly wear a mask while in the building, regardless of your vaccination status. Free masks are available in the lobby and the narthex, should you need one. You also have the option to livestream the service via YouTube, if that is more comfortable for you – links and instructions can be found on our website, by clicking the "Live" tab at the top of the screen.

We 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, and our traditional closing circle and coffee hour remain suspended. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Readings

First Lesson

Ephesians 6: 10-20 *The full armor of God*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

John 6:56-69 *A Hard Saying*

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Parent sent me and I live because of God the Parent, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

(continued on next page)

Readings

Second Lesson (continued)

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see me ascend to where I was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless God has enabled them.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Contemporary Reading

From *All The King's Men*, by Robert Penn Warren

“After a great blow, or crisis, after the first shock and then after the nerves have stopped screaming and twitching, you settle down to the new condition of things and feel that all possibility of change has been used up. You adjust yourself and are sure that the new equilibrium is for eternity . . . But if anything is certain it is that no story is ever over, for the story which we think is over is only a chapter in a story which will not be over.”

Special Thanks:

AUGUST 22, 2021

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

AUGUST 29, 2021

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

NOTES:
