



# 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***

*"Mirrors should  
think longer  
before they  
reflect."  
—Jean Cocteau*



---

**Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

# August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **Meditation Music**

"The world is full of fools, and he who would not see it should live alone and smash his mirror." –Claude Le Petit

## ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

### **Prelude**

***Prelude in B flat    Liszt***

**Bearing the Light of Peace**

**Bearing the Light of Christ**

### **\* Call to Worship:**

- Leader: We come to hear God's voice in the Scriptures, the hymns, the prayers, the sermon.
- **People: But when we have heard, let us not be hearers only, but also doers of God's Word.**
- Leader: May our church be a place where we get ideas to turn our faith into action. May it be a place where we can see ourselves clearly, our gifts and our strengths, and so use what God has given us to do good in the world.
- **People: As we enter into worship, let us do so with eyes open to the possibilities God will show us. Let us worship God!**

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer!

3. Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer!  
Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

(Music: Charles C. Converse, 1868; text: Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.)

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

**O God of heaven and earth, you know us inside and out and backwards and forwards. You know us to the depths of our being and to the heights of our aspirations. You know us when we reach for the stars and when we wallow in the mire, when we do righteous deeds and when we commit wanton transgressions. You know us. You see us as we are. You know us and you continue to love us, in good and bad, when we show love and when we need forgiveness. Help us to show love a little more and need forgiveness a little less. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen**

**\* Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader:** Isaiah said, "Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD and the LORD will have mercy on them, and to our God, for God will freely pardon.
- **People:** The mercy of God falls on us like the rains fall in spring, bringing new life and growth. Thanks be to God for mercy in Jesus Christ! 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:** James 1: 17-27     *Doers of the Word*

**Second Lesson (Pastor Allan):** Mark 7:1-23     *Things that defile a person*

**Contemporary Lesson:** Theodore Sturgeon     *Carrying A Mirror*

**Musical Offering**

***Purify My Heart***

Doerksen

Dave Debick, vocalist

**Sermon**

***A Mirror Into The Soul***

Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection:**

***Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed***

#537

1. Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true, raise your work and life anew.
2. Hearts around you sink with care; you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light, strengthen them to do the right.
3. Offer others hope and joy, and God's worship your employ;  
Giving thanks in humble zeal, learning all God's will to feel.
4. Come then, law divine, and reign: faith that doubt assails in vain,  
Perfect love bereft of fear, born in heaven and radiant here.  
(Music: The Parish Choir, 1850; text: Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; 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 way we use our money is a mirror into our souls. Let us reflect our love on our world through presenting our gifts and offerings 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]**

**The light you send to us reflects off us and into the world, O God. Let us be good mirrors, sending your light into the darkest situations that surround us. Accept these offerings as gleams of reflected light from you. Amen**

## Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *God Our Author and Creator*

#530

1. God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,  
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.  
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed downtrod;  
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.
2. Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve:  
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.  
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still;  
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.
3. Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,  
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."  
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,  
with all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.

(Music: Southern Harmony, 1835; text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.; 1985)

### 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 *Improvisation on Theme from Symphony No. 1*

Brahms

WISHING YOU A  
BLESSED AND HEALTHY  
WEEK AHEAD!

# ***BUCC 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!
- **FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are dedicated by Sherrill Witt, in honor of her mother, Shirley Duncan, on what would have been her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **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) on the first and third Sundays of the month. 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 Reading

**James 1: 17-27**     *Doers of the Word*

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. God chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of “first fruits” of all God created.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Parent accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

### Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

**Mark 7:1-23**     *Things that defile a person*

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

*(continued on next page)*

## Readings

### Second Reading (continued)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

### Contemporary Reading

From ***Venus Plus X***, by Theodore Sturgeon

*On carrying a mirror:*

“Why on earth do you carry a mirror around with you?”

“It’s purely a defensive device. We seldom quarrel, and this is one of the reasons. Can you imagine yourself getting all worked up and contorted and illogical and then coming face to face with yourself, looking at yourself exactly as you look to everyone else?”

# Special Thanks:

## **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:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <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

## **SEPTEMBER 5 , 2021**

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Greeter:	Marge Culver
Counters:	Marge Culver <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	Jim Duffy
Sound:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	Val Duffy

# NOTES:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---