



# Brecksville

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# 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***

"Happiness is  
having a large,  
loving, caring,  
close-knit family  
in another city."  
—George Burns



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**Sunday August 8<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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

## **Meditation Music**

"Parents are like God because you wanna know they're out there, and you want them to think well of you, but you really only call when you need something."

—Chuck Palahniuk, ***Invisible Monsters***

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

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

### **Prelude**

### ***God, Bless Our Homes***

David Evans

*"God, bless our homes with peace and love and laughter,  
with understanding and with loyalty.*

*May we together follow Christ our Savior  
and know the blessing of community."*

*(Frank von Christerson, 1957)*

### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

### **Bearing the Light of Christ**

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

Leader: Come into worship and find a sense of belonging: belonging to a church family; belonging to a caring community; belonging to God's people.

**People: Worship calls us together to share in the experience of something more than ourselves, to be a part of something greater together.**

Leader: No matter who you are, where you come from, what your situation is, you are welcome here. In the community of Christ, you belong, just as you are.

**People: Let us worship God together!**

## **Hymn of Praise:      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You***

#4

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.
3. You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

(Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. & harm. Edward Hodges, 1846; text: Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.)

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

**O God, you are so strange—not what we expected at all! You call out for justice, and we agree: the world is short on justice! But then you offer forgiveness to those who do injustice, instead of vengeance! Ultimately, we agree on that too, when we see our own part in the world's injustice more clearly. Then the last thing we want is divine vengeance. Now we know we need forgiveness! But at the end of it all, the world is still so short on justice! What is to be done? You tell us. But what kind of crazy plan is this: that the unjust, forgiven, should work for justice? This is not what we expected, not at all. O God, you are so wonderfully strange! Amen**

### **\* Words of Assurance:**

**Leader:** As Paul said, “Brothers and sisters, you died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”

**People:** Our injustice is gone, and from now on, justice will live in us through Christ! Thanks be to God for the forgiveness which is ours in Christ Jesus our Savior! 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** (read by Allan)    **2 Samuel 13:1-21, 28-29**    *A horrific crime and its  
Aftermath*

**Second Lesson** (read by Allan)    **2 Samuel 18: 5-15, 31-33**    *The Death of Absalom*

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

**Musical Offering**

***Time Stand Still***

Lifeson/Lee/Peart

Kate Klonowski & Matt Wolbert, vocalists

**Sermon**

***That's Just Messed Up***

Pastor Allan Lane

**Hymn of Reflection:**

***God Made from One Blood***

#427

## ***The Church at Prayer***

Suzanne Patrick, 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, 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: The radical acceptance of God has found a place for each of us to belong. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God so that others may find their place in this world.

**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]**

Arms that embrace, and hands that share, present these gifts to you, O God.  
Receive them and all the love we have for you. Send them out with the love  
to bring belonging to this messy world. Amen

# Going with God's Love

## Hymn of Departure: *Community of Christ*

#314

1. Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:  
The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race and every song.
2. Community of Christ, look past the church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.
3. Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound--  
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round:  
Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.
4. When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;  
Our currency be love and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

(Traditional Hebrew melody, adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770; text: Shirley Erena Murray, 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

*Sing Praises to God Elaine Kirkland*

## ***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!
- **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 we have determined that BUCC will follow CDC guidance, we will be asking all participants attending services to wear a mask starting today (regardless of vaccination status). Free masks are available at the church should you forget yours. Thank you for your understanding and support. You also have the option to live stream the service via YouTube if that is more comfortable for you.

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!
- **HUNGER MEAL** – The next Hunger Meal is scheduled for Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. Contact **Matt Wolbert** for more information: [\*\*mjwolbert@hotmail.com\*\*](mailto:mjwolbert@hotmail.com).



## Readings

### **First Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)**

**2 Samuel 13:1-21, 28-29**     *A horrific crime and its aftermath*

In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

"Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'" So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill.

When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand."

David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him." So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat. "Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him. Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."

"No, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me! Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you." But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

*(continued on next page)*

## Readings

### First Lesson (continued)

“No!” she said to him. “Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me.” But he refused to listen to her. He called his personal servant and said, “Get this woman out of my sight and bolt the door after her.” So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing an ornate robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

Her brother Absalom said to her, “Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. Don’t take this thing to heart.” And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom’s house, a desolate woman.

When King David heard all this, he was furious.

Absalom ordered his men, “Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon down,’ then kill him. Don’t be afraid. Haven’t I given you this order? Be strong and brave.” So Absalom’s men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered. Then all the king’s sons got up, mounted their mules and fled.

### Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

**2 Samuel 18: 5-15, 31-33** *The Death of Absalom*

The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, “Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake.” And all the troops heard the king giving orders concerning Absalom to each of the commanders. David’s army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. There Israel’s troops were routed by David’s men, and the casualties that day were great—twenty thousand men. The battle spread out over the whole countryside, and the forest swallowed up more men that day than the sword.

Now Absalom happened to meet David’s men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom’s hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going. When one of the men saw what had happened, he told Joab, “I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree.”

*(continued on next page)*

## Readings

### Second Lesson (continued)

Joab said to the man who had told him this, “What! You saw him? Why didn’t you strike him to the ground right there? Then I would have had to give you ten shekels of silver and a warrior’s belt.”

But the man replied, “Even if a thousand shekels were weighed out into my hands, I would not lay a hand on the king’s son. In our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, ‘Protect the young man Absalom for my sake.’ And if I had put my life in jeopardy—and nothing is hidden from the king—you would have kept your distance from me.”

Joab said, “I’m not going to wait like this for you.” So he took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom’s heart while Absalom was still alive in the oak tree. And ten of Joab’s armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him and killed him

Then the Cushite arrived and said, “My lord the king, hear the good news! The Lord has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you.”

The king asked the Cushite, “Is the young man Absalom safe?”

The Cushite replied, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man.”

The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: “O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!”

### Contemporary Reading

From ***Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead***, “True Belonging”, by Brené Brown

“Because true belonging only happens when we present out authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance. ... Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path.”

# Special Thanks:

## **AUGUST 8, 2021**

**Head Usher:** Jon Thompson  
**Ushers:** Betsey Wilson  
Bill Witt  
**Lay Reader:** Kate Klonowski  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Counters:** Jim Duffy  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Acolyte:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Peace Candle:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**A/V Team:** Tim Wallis  
**Sound:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Flowers:** Tia Began

## **AUGUST 15, 2021**

**Head Usher:** Sue Maier  
**Ushers:** Sue Stenzel  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Lay Reader:** Elizabeth Gadus  
**Greeter:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Counters:** Jon Thompson  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Acolyte:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Peace Candle:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**A/V Team:** Tim Wallis  
Fred Pedersen  
Betsey Wilson  
**Sound:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Flowers:** Dorie Gabor