

Brecksville

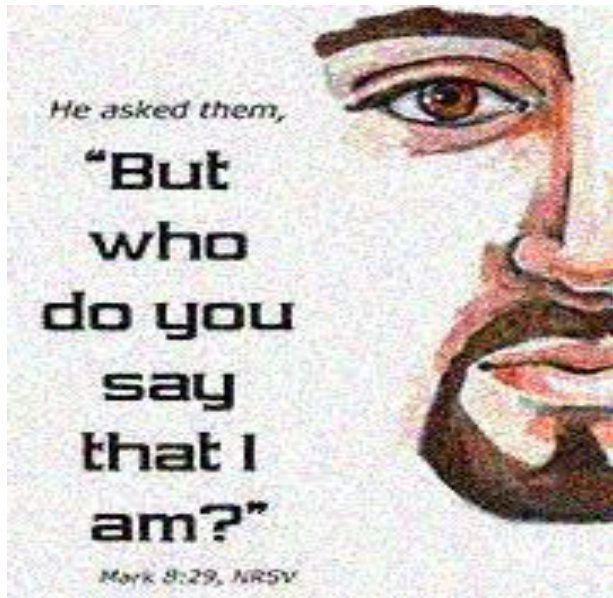
United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

"We know
what we are,
but not
what we may
be."

—W. Shakespeare,
from *Hamlet*



Sunday September 12th, 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

September 12th, 2021

Meditation Music

"We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are." –Madeline L'Engle

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude *Mercy ("La Grace")* G. P. Telemann; arr. Hal H. Hopson

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: God says, "What do you think of when you think of me?"
- **People: Our thoughts of you, O God, are shaped by worship, by story, by song and by prayer. Our thoughts are full of mercy, grace and love. Our thoughts lift us to your presence, O God.**
- Leader: "Do you think of the good times or the hard times, the before times or the after times, the times when we were close, or the times when we felt so far apart? What do you think of when you think of me?" God asks.
- **People: We think of love beyond words, of love in action; we think of constancy and patience, waiting for us to come home. What do we think of when we think of you, O God? We think of you embracing us in Jesus Christ, just as we are, to remake us in your love. That's what we think of when we think of you, O God, our God. Come friends, let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

#22

Carrie Coyer-Westerberg, trumpet

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice--organ and trumpet and voice--
joining God's great congregation.
2. Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?
3. Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.
4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is our light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
amen, amen never ending.

(Music: Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; adapt. & harm. W. S. Bennett, 1863; text: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993)

* Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]

O God, we breathe in, we breathe out, we feel your presence in the life of every breath we take. We open our ears to the birdsong and the whispers of the wind in the trees. We can hear you everywhere, when our souls are still enough. But the clamor of urgent things and the din of pressing responsibilities drown out the song of life you sing in our ears. We forget. We become preoccupied. We miss our chance to share love, share life. We overlook the needs of others. We put our crosses aside for a while, and our discipleship sits forlornly on the side of the road. Focus us again on hearing your song of love and life. Help us find our crosses and pick them up again, as your disciples. Let us be your people once again, rich in mercy and grace, and full of love. In Jesus' name, Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

- Leader: From the beginning of the church, forgiveness of sins has been preached in Jesus' name.
- People: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. 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 Reading: Mark 8: 22-26 *Blurry vision*

Second Reading: Mark 8:27-38 *Who do you say I am?*

Contemporary Reading: *“Who we really are,”* by Julia Cameron

Anthem ***Blessed Be Your Name*** Matt & Beth Redman

Sermon By Rob Grow

Hymn of Reflection: *Jesus--The Very Thought to Me* #507, v. 1-3

1. Jesus--the very thought to me with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far your face to see, and in your presence rest.
2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than your blessed name, Savior of humankind.
3. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those apart, how good to those who seek!
(Music: John B. Dykes, 1866; text: Latin, c. 12th century; transl. E. B. Caswall, 1849; alt.)



The Church at Prayer

Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Dorie Gabor, Lois Lorenzo, Sandra Lane, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Dassie Matsuoka, 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, Jon Thompson, Kathy Smith, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), “Edna House”, 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: When we take up our crosses to follow Jesus, we tread the path of deep discipleship. We go where he has gone before, and so we give ourselves as he gave himself. Let us present 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]**

These gifts allow the church to continue ministry, to answer calls, to offer help for food, for lodging, to be there to listen. May the gifts of the people offered to God in this offering, and in our hearts, make a difference for someone in the world. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure:

Jesus, Still Lead On

#446

1. Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
And although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.

2. If the way be drear, if the woe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us, let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe to our home we go.

3. When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

4. Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
Heavenly Leader still direct us, still support, console, protect us,
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.

(Adam Drese in Geistreiches Gesangbuch, Darmstadt, 1698; text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1721; transl. Jane Borthwick, 1846; 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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single line. The second staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line is written on a single line. Chord symbols are placed above and below the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

† Benediction

Postlude

From Everlasting to Everlasting

Kirkland

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!

- *****THANK YOU** to Rob Grow, who graciously answered our call on Friday, for a substitute pastor for today's service. We appreciate you so much!***

- **BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY** - It's not too late to participate in one of our music ensembles at BUCC. Here are the days and times for each group:
 - Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble: Thursdays at 5 PM; all ages welcome. Dave is happy to teach any of these instruments if you'd like to learn.
 - Joyful Noise Choir: Thursdays from 5:30-6:15; for ages K through 5th grade.
 - Adult Choir: Thursdays from 7:00-8:20; high school students welcome.
 - Percussion Group: Rehearsal on an as needed basis; 6th grade through adults welcome.
 - Instrumentalists: If you play an instrument and would like to share your musical gifts, please let Dave know so he can schedule you to play at a service; all instruments and ages welcome.

Dave is happy to teach any of these instruments if you'd like to learn – he can be contacted by email at **buccmusic23@gmail.com**, or the **church office** at **440-526-4364**.

- **PASTOR'S FUND** – The Pastor's Fund is currently running low. Please consider making a small donation to the Blessings Jar (located behind the last full length pew, just off the center aisle) - thank you!

- **PROCEDURES DURING SERVICES** – We are still wearing masks and still social distancing, regardless of your vaccination status. If you don't have a mask, they're available by the back doors, in the lobby and in the narthex. You also have the option to livestream the service via **YouTube** – simply go to **brecksvilleucc.org** and click on the "**Live**" tab (the second option in the blue bar, under our logo).

Readings

First Reading

Mark 8: 22-26

Blurry vision

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Mark 8:27-38

Who do you say I am?

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Readings

Contemporary Reading

“Who we really are”, by Julia Cameron

“Most of us are not raised to actively encounter our destiny. We may not know that we have one. As children, we are seldom told we have a place in life that is uniquely ours alone. Instead, we are encouraged to believe that our life should somehow fulfill the expectations of others, that we will (or should) find our satisfactions as they have found theirs. Rather than being taught to ask ourselves who we are, we are schooled to ask others. We are, in effect, trained to listen to others' versions of ourselves. We are brought up in our life as told to us by someone else! When we survey our lives, seeking to fulfill our creativity, we often see we had a dream that went glimmering because we believed, and those around us believed, that the dream was beyond our reach. Many of us would have been, or at least might have been, done, tried something if...if we had known who we really were.”



Special Thanks:

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Kate Klonowski
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Ann Kelley
Counters: Robin Coyer
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: Gabriella Gagliano
Peace Candle: Giuliana Gagliano
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Sue Stenzel

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Jim Duffy
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Dorie Gabor