



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***

"Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tells us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."

—Neil Gaiman,
Coraline



Sunday October 24th, 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

October 24th, 2021

Meditation Music

"Fantasy is storytelling with the beguiling power to transform the impossible into the imaginable, and to reveal our own 'real' world in a fresh and truth-bearing light."

—Leonard S. Marcus, ***The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy***

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Morning Prayer

Tchaikovsky

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- **Leader:** Stories can change things. We can see what we did not see before. We can feel what we thought we would never feel again. Come into worship and hear the stories of God!
- **People:** **The Scripture says, “what no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, what no human mind has conceived—such are the things God has prepared for those who love God.” God’s imagination calls us in to be a part of the story with God.**
- **Leader:** From long ago the story has been told; for ages to come the story will go on being told as fiercely as though it had never been believed before. God has entered our story, and that has made all the difference.
- **People:** **Come, let us hear the stories of God and humanity. Come, let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise: ***Incarnate God, Immortal Love***

#414, v. 1, 2, 5

1. Incarnate God, immortal Love, whom we, that have not seen your face,
by faith, and faith alone, embrace, believing where we cannot prove:
2. You will not leave us in the dust; you gave us life, we know not why.
We trust we were not made to die, for you have made us, you are just.
5. We have but faith; we cannot know, for knowledge is of things proved true;
And yet we trust it comes from you, a sign of promise; let it grow.
(Music: Anon., adapt. Edward Miller, 1790; text: Alfred Tennyson, 1850; alt.)

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

O God, we had heard of you, but then we saw you in Jesus Christ. We thought we knew you, but the reality was far different. You had no patience for sin, but tremendous love for sinners. You took a quick whip to hypocrisy, but took all the time the penitent needed to make their confession. Trusting, then, in who we know you to be, we make our own confession to you. We've done stuff we shouldn't have done, oh yes we have. And we didn't get done the things we were supposed to do, and so part of your kingdom didn't get built yet. And we're sorry for that, we are. Forgive us, we pray, out of the abundance of your grace to us in Jesus Christ, and help us to do better in the week to come. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader:** The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God."
- **People:** In life and death, we belong to God through Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to you, O God! Amen

Song of Praise:

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

Pablo Sosa, 1988

***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 (Allan): Job 42: 1-17 *Job: The Denouement*

Second Reading: Psalm 126:1-6 *Restored Fortunes*

Contemporary Reading (Allan): “Our Response to Atrocities,” from
***Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence – From
Domestic Abuse to Political Terror***, by Judith Lewis Herman

Anthem ***Hold to God's Unchanging Hand*** F. L. Eiland; arr. S. Key

*Verse 1: Time is filled with swift transition. Naught of earth unmoved can stand.
Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

Refrain: Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand. (twice)
Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

*V. 2: Trust in God who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken, still more closely to God cling. (Refrain)*

*V. 3: Covet not this world's vain riches that so rapidly decay.
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures. They will never pass away. (Refrain)*

*V. 4: When your journey is completed, if to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in Glory your enraptured soul will view. (Refrain)*

Text by Jennie Wilson (1856-1913)

Sermon ***Fairytales and Reality: The End of Job*** Pastor Allan Lane

1. All my hope on God is founded: who else can my hope renew?
Still through change and chance God guides me, only good and only true.
God unknown, grace alone, calls my heart to be God's own.

2. Well does the almighty Giver bounteous gifts on us bestow!
With delight our souls are nourished; pleasure leads us where we go.
At God's hand does love stand; joy awaits each new command.

3. In glad hymns to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising for the love in Christ made known.
Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who follow shall not fall.

(Music: Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977; text: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; paraph. by Robert Bridges, 1899; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of Max Roha, Suzanne Patrick, Fred Pesek, George Snider, David Pastor, Peg Duffy, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Lois Lorenzo, Sandra Lane, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., 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: O God, you call us to a bigger love for you and for our neighbor. You call us to a bigger vision of what may be, in the midst of what is. You call us to new devotion in our old church. Inspire us to the fullness of discipleship as we present our gifts and offerings to you.

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]**

May these gifts result in lives that are changed, in hopes that are fulfilled, in dreams that become reality. Take what we give, O God, and transform it by your Spirit into what you envision for our community. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* #476, v. 1, 2 & 4

1. My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul--how can I keep from singing?

2. What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

4. I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christy makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's--how can I keep from singing?

(Music: Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, 1869;
text: Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; 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.

† Benediction

Postlude

I Shall Not Be Moved

African American spiritual

*"I shall not be, I shall not be moved. (twice)
Like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.
When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved...
The church of God is marching, I shall not be moved...
Jesus is our Captain, I shall not be moved...
Fighting sin and Satan, I shall not be moved..."*

WISHING YOU A
BLESSED AND HEALTHY
WEEK AHEAD!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE SENT TO ANNE AT BUCCOFFICE23@GMAIL.COM.
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN MUST BE RECEIVED BY
WEDNESDAY AT NOON.**

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!
- **FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are dedicated by Ed and June Puwal, "Thankful for God's many blessings and in celebration of our 57th wedding anniversary."
- **2021 ADVENT BOOK** – Every year BUCC members contribute to the Advent Book – 40 days' worth of prayers, insights and interpretations of a variety of Advent-related bible verses. Last year due to COVID we leveraged a variety of writings from years past to compile the book. This year we would like to return to fresh writings but open it up to what members would like to share about their personal experience during the pandemic. So far (mid-October) we've received several thoughtful submissions about personal experiences during COVID. If you are interested in sharing your experience (or two or three), please email it to Sue Maier at **Eyerienne@aol.com** (there is always the option to provide a hard copy to the office if email isn't your thing). What you write is up to you, but it should relate to the overall goal of the Advent book as a way to reflect on the coming of Christ. Here's a link to a great article to inspire you: https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_advent/

If you are interested in writing for the Advent book but prefer the more traditional approach of having a bible verse to inspire you, please let us know and we will send you one. Submissions will close on November 1st to provide sufficient time to put the book together for distribution. Should we have any open days we will go back to previous Advent Books for content.

I don't consider myself a 'religious' person, but I do look forward to the Advent Book and feel like it brings me closer to the people in this amazing congregation. I keep it by my bed and read the daily offering before bed each night – for me this just adds to the magic of the season. If the feelings and experiences shared on September 19th are any indication, I think we can create something very special for Advent 2021.

- Sue Maier, **Eyerienne@aol.com**

- **PASTOR'S FUND** – The Pastor's Fund is currently running low. Please consider making a small donation, by using a pew envelope and marking it "Pastor's Fund" on the front. These can be left in any of the collection plates, found at each entrance. Thank you!

Readings

First Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Job 42: 1-17

Job: The Denouement

Then Job replied to the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.”

“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has. So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the Lord told them; and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.

After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters. The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

Readings (continued)

Second Reading

Psalm 126:1-6 *Restored Fortunes*

A song of ascents.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Contemporary Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

"Our Response to Atrocities," from ***Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence - From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror***, by Judith Lewis Herman

"The ordinary response to atrocities is to banish them from consciousness. Certain violations of the social compact are too terrible to utter aloud: this is the meaning of the word unspeakable.

Atrocities, however, refuse to be buried. Equally as powerful as the desire to deny atrocities is the conviction that denial does not work. Folk wisdom is filled with ghosts who refuse to rest in their graves until their stories are told. Murder will out. Remembering and telling the truth about terrible events are prerequisites both for the restoration of the social order and for the healing of individual victims.

The conflict between the will to deny horrible events and the will to proclaim them aloud is the central dialectic of psychological trauma. People who have survived atrocities often tell their stories in a highly emotional, contradictory, and fragmented manner that undermines their credibility and thereby serves the twin imperatives of truth-telling and secrecy. When the truth is finally recognized, survivors can begin their recovery. But far too often secrecy prevails, and the story of the traumatic event surfaces not as a verbal narrative but as a symptom.

The psychological distress symptoms of traumatized people simultaneously call attention to the existence of an unspeakable secret and deflect attention from it. This is most apparent in the way traumatized people alternate between feeling numb and reliving the event. The dialectic of trauma gives rise to complicated, sometimes uncanny alterations of consciousness, which George Orwell, one of the committed truth-tellers of our century, called "doublethink," and which mental health professionals, searching for calm, precise language, call "dissociation." It results in protean, dramatic, and often bizarre symptoms of hysteria which Freud recognized a century ago as disguised communications about sexual abuse in childhood. . . ."

Special Thanks:

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Jane Cribbs
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Sound: Tim Wallis
Flowers: June & Ed Puwal

OCTOBER 31, 2021

Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Dorie Gabor
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Caroline Chandler
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Sound: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz