



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364
*To be Loving, Serving, and Accepting Of All People with God's
Life-changing Power and Grace*

**"The best thing
about endings
is knowing that
just ahead is
the daunting
task to start
over."**

**—Jodi Picoult,
*Keeping Faith***

ALL ARE
WELCOME

Sunday November 7th, 2021 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Allan Lane

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Office Manager

• Anne Melfo

*** 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 and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Sunday November 7th, 2021

Meditation Music

"All stories must end so, with the next tale winking out of the corners of the last pages, promising more, promising moonlight and dancing and revels, if only you will come back when spring comes again."

—Catherynne, M. Valente, *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Come, Let Us Join With Faithful Souls/When the Saints Go Marching In

Lowry/Trad. Spiritual Kathy Smith and Beth Gadus, dulcimer; Craig Ramsey, guitar; Becky Anderson, Flute; Dave Debick, Recorder

"We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;

We're marching onward to Zion, the beautiful city of God."

(Music: Robert Lowry, 1867; text: Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.; refrain: R. Lowry, 1867; alt.)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: God is telling the story of the world, and we are all characters God has created to people the places God has imagined.

People: What a tale God has written to be this life of ours! And yet we are free to scribble our own pages as we make our way through our chapter of the great book.

Leader: We remember with gratitude the saints who have peopled the pages of chapters past, and brought the story to this point. Flawed and human, just as we are, they have carried the story on their shoulders.

People: Now the story is ours to tell in our time, alongside our God. Come, let us worship God, who is writing this life with us!

Hymn of Praise: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* **#43, v. 1, 2, & 4**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
 Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
 Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
 Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
 Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
 End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
4. Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
 Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
 Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.
 (Music: John Zundel, 1855; text: Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.)

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

We are the stories we tell about ourselves, O God. The stories are what make us who we are. The story you tell about yourself is that you are a loving parent, waiting for children who have quarreled with you to come home. The story you tell is one where you search for us and find us when we didn't know we were lost. The life you want with us is a relationship of freedom in love, of choices made for good and not for evil. But what is the story we tell about ourselves? Are we the children who know better? Are we the ones who need to escape to find their freedom? Are we the children who only feel whole if we think we are better than our siblings? Or are we the children grateful for a parent's constant love and sage advice? As we tell our stories, let us find a place for you within them. When our story takes a wrong turn, help us erase the page and start again with a fresh sheet from you. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Psalm 107 says: "Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those redeemed from the hand of the foe, those God gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south."

People: Our story is the story of the redeemed, the ones freed *from* sin and freed *for* life by God in Jesus our Redeemer. In him we have forgiveness and a blank sheet to start again in holiness. 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

Ruth 2: 1-11 Glean on me (Allan)

Second Lesson

Ruth 3: 1-11 How to marry a millionaire (Allan)

Third Lesson

Ruth 4: 13-17 A foreigner in the family (Jon)

Anthem

Find Us Faithful Jon Mohr

We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road,
and those who've gone before us line the way.

Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary,
their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us run the race not only for the prize.

But as those who've gone before us, let us leave to those behind us
the heritage of faithfulness passed on through Godly lives.

Refrain: O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

May the fire of our devotion light their way.

May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe,

and the lives we live inspire them to obey.
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
and our children sift through all we've left behind,
may the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
become the light that leads them to the road we each must find. (Refrains)

Sermon ***Strong Women, Strong Choices*** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way #465

1. Teach me, O Lord, your holy way, and give me an obedient mind,
That in your service I may find my heart's delight from day to day.
 2. Help me, O Savior, here to trace the sacred footsteps you have trod;
and fully trusting in my God, to grow in goodness, truth, and grace.
 3. Guard me, O Christ, that I may ne'er forsake the right, or do the wrong;
Against temptation make me strong, and keep me in your sheltering care.
 4. Bless me in every task I face, begun, continued, done for you;
Fulfill your will in all I do, and grant me your abundant grace.
- (Music: Anon., adapt. Edward Miller, 1790; text: William Matson, 1866; 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: Every person has a story to their life that has brought them to this point. Some are able to give, and some are in desperate need. Let this be the place in the story where those who can give, give, so that those who are in need may receive. 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]**

When the tale is told, may this be a turning point for the better, both for those who give and those who will receive. We dedicate these offerings, as well as our time and our talent, to your service, O God. Amen

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: *Be Known To Us In Breaking Bread* #342,

1. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
O Savior, stay with us and spread your table in our heart.
 2. Here share with us in love divine, your body and your blood;
That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.
- (Music: Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562; text: James Montgomery, 1825; alt.)



† **The Invitation**

† **Prayer of Consecration**

† **Words of Institution**

† **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving: [Unison]**

You tell your story with words and with sacraments, O God, as you walk through time with us. We thank you that you have sanctified this time with the bread and wine of your holy presence. They, too, share your sacred story with your people. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure: *O Savior, for the Saints* #298, vv. 1-4**

1. O Savior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
Who followed you without complaint, our grateful hymn receive.

2. O Savior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
Who loved and served without restraint, accept our thankful cry.

3. They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
Learned from the Holy Spirit's breath to suffer and to do.

4. For this, your name we bless and humbly pray anew
That we, like them, in holiness may live and die in you.
(Music: William Walter, 1872; text: Richard Mant, 1837; alt.)

***Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte**

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, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A. The lyrics are '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 piece ends with a double bar line.

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

River Flows in You

Yiruma

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!

➤ **2021 ADVENT BOOK** – Every year BUCC members contribute to the Advent Book – 28 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

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

➤ **CHURCH RENTAL HOUSE AVAILABLE** – We currently have a 2- bedroom unit available in the church's rental house on Arlington Ave. The unit consists of an eat-in kitchen, with dining and living rooms on the lower level. The upstairs has 2 bedrooms and 1 full bathroom. The unit comes with a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer, 1 parking space in the garage, and two additional parking spaces. There is no central air-conditioning, but the unit can accommodate window units. The monthly rent is \$850.00 and will require a credit and background check, signing a 1-year lease and providing an \$850.00 security deposit. Tenant will be responsible for paying their own gas, electric, cable and internet. Water and sewer charges are taken care of by the church. Showings for the unit can be scheduled through the church office, starting November 1st. Thank you!

➤ **CHRISTMAS SEASONAL CHOIR** - Even though the Spiritual Life Ministry has decided against presenting a cantata this year (due to Covid and limited seating in sanctuary), we will be organizing a seasonal choir to help with special music during the holiday season. These practices will be held weekly on Thursday evenings, starting November 4th from 7 - 7:40pm. The music we prepare will be presented during the second part of December and early January, at our regular Sunday services. All are welcome to participate, including high school students. Contact Dave Debick at **buccmusic23@gmail** or through the **office** at **440-526-4364**, with any questions.

➤ **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)

Ruth 2: 1-11 Glean on me

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered, "The Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "To whom does this young woman belong?" The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before."

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Ruth 3: 1-11 How to marry a millionaire

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight

at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet, and lay down. At midnight the man was startled, and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin.” He said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman.

Third Reading (read by Jon Thompson)

Ruth 4: 13-17 A foreigner in the family

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.