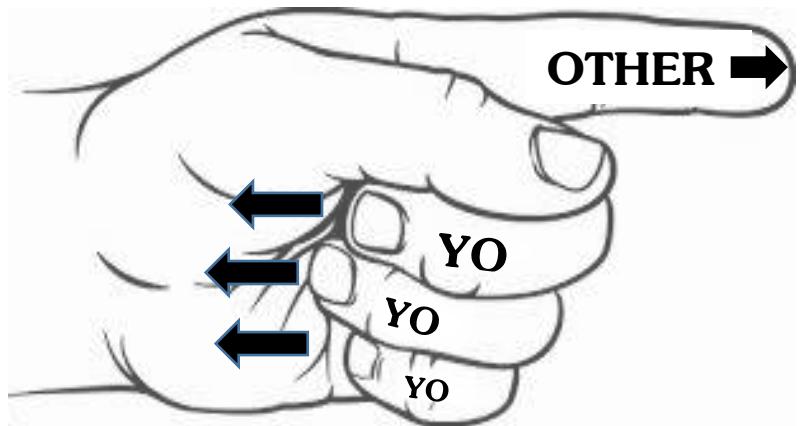


BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

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

“People hasten to judge in order not to be judged themselves.”
—Albert Camus,
The Fall



Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 23rd, 2022 • 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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23rd, 2022

Meditation Music

"We are all hypocrites. We cannot see ourselves or judge ourselves the way we see and judge others." —José Emilio Pacheco, *Battles in the Desert & Other Stories*

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Grace

Burgmüller

**Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ**

* Call to Worship:

Leader: The ancient monks went out into the desert to fight the demons.

People: Yet they found that the demons were not in the desert but were in themselves.

Leader: God calls us into community to be strengthened to battle against the demons, whether they be in our society or in our selves.

People: Empower us to love right, to do right, and to make things right, through our time with you this morning, O Holy One. Come, let us worship God!

* Hymn of Praise *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing* #459

* Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]

Open our eyes, O God, to the planks that are in them! For you are the great Eye-Opener, the one who works in our conscience to help us see what we do not want to see. We are very good at spotting sins, as long as they are in someone else's life. We are very good at noticing the faults of other people. But we are so often blind to those same faults in ourselves. We confess our blindness. We confess our own sinfulness; we confess that we are just like everyone else: in need of grace and forgiveness. We ask for that grace and forgiveness in the name of the Messiah, Jesus. Amen

Words of Assurance:

Leader: The Scripture says, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.'"

People: By faith we have come seeking forgiveness. In faith we have received it in Jesus' name by the grace of God. Thanks be to 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 Lesson 2 Samuel 12: 1-7a *It was always you*

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan) **Matthew 7: 1-5** *A plank in the eye*

Contemporary Lesson "Judging others" by Ashly Lorenzana

Musical Offering *Cavatina* Myers

Sermon *Judgment and Grace* Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *Amazing Grace* #547

The Church at Prayer

Rose Kaval, Sandra Lane & Pat Brown, Pat Rehm, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Fred Pesek, George Snider, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, 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: We see someone in need, and we do not judge whether they are worthy of our help. The Jesus Way is simply to help whoever we see in need. 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]

Receive these gifts from your humble servants, O God. Use them and us as instruments of your grace in the world. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

O Jesus, I Have Promised

#493

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

Shout for Joy to God

J. S. Hawk

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!
- **PEW ENVELOPES** are ready for pick up in the Upper Commons. Because so many members are paying online or with direct payments, you may not see an envelope box with your name on it. If you would like a box, please contact **Joy Garapic** at **440- 526-4364**.
- **REMEMBER THE HUNGRY** – Many thanks to those who have donated non-perishable food items, and please keep them coming! As we read in Matthew 25, “Lord, when did we see thee hungry...” – we should not forget those who are in need of assistance with food items, especially now that cold weather is upon us. Please place your donations of food for the hungry in the basket by the office door. We will see that the items get to those in need – and Thank You!

Readings

First Lesson

2 Samuel 12: 1-7a *It was always you*

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

Matthew 7: 1-5 *A plank in the eye*

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

Contemporary Lesson

“Judging others” by Ashly Lorenzana

“We judge others instantly by their clothes, their cars, their appearance, their race, their education, their social status. The list is endless. What gets me is that most people decide who another person is before they have even spoken to them. What’s even worse is that these same people decide who someone else is, and don’t even know who they are themselves.”

Special Thanks:

JANUARY 23, 2022

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Jon Thompson
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***

JANUARY 30, 2022

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Dorie Gabor
Heidi Spangler
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Dorie Gabor
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***