



# 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*



*"Blessed are the  
cracked, for they  
shall let in the  
light."*

— Groucho Marx

**6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 • 10:00 AM**

**Pastor**

• Rev. John King

**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)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

# 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

## February 6th, 2022

### Meditation Music

"HELPED are those who find the courage to do at least one small thing each day to help the existence of another--plant, animal, river, or human being. They shall be joined by a multitude of the timid." — **Alice Walker**

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

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

**Prelude**                      ***But the Lord Is Mindful*** (from "St. Paul")                      Mendelssohn

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

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

One: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

**All: We are each a child of God. No matter who we are, or where we are on life's journey, we are blessed.**

One: Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

**All: We come to worship the God who feeds us, who fills us, and who blesses us.**

One: Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

**All: Let us rejoice in the love of God, and worship our God together in prayer, song, and praise.**

**\* Hymn of Praise        *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator***                      #13, v. 1-4

1. O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;  
Bless your Maker, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.
2. God forgives all your transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;  
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.
3. Far as east from west is distant, God has put away your sin;  
Like a mother and a father, God compassionate has been.
4. As it was in the beginning, so it lasts without an end;  
To their children's children ever shall God's righteousness extend.

(Music: Attrib. to Christian F. Witt, *Psalmody Sacra*, Gotha, 1715; words: Anon., *United Presbyterian Book of Psalms*, 1871; alt.)

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

### ***(Prayer of Invocation)***

O God of many blessings, be with us in our joy and in our sorrow. Help us to reach out with your love to those in need, that we may not be satisfied until all are fed. Bless each of us here, and all who cannot be present with us today. Shower your blessings on our worship, as we pray all this through Jesus the Christ, our teacher and our guide.

### ***(Prayer of Confession)***

We try to care for each other, especially when there is pain and sorrow, and when we witness injustice. But we cannot find blessing in poverty and hunger. Sometimes it feels just too hard to offer relief or to work for change. We prefer to stay in our comfortable spaces or choose to walk past those in need. Sometimes we are afraid. Forgive us when we serve ourselves more often than we serve you, O God. We come to you with humble hearts.

## **Words of Assurance (*Assurance of Pardon*):**

One: God knows your mind and knows your heart. God forgives those who seek forgiveness with sincere hearts and minds. God offers grace of hope and courage to change our ways and confront injustice. Blessed are those whose trust is in God. Know that you are loved and forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **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** Amos 5:21–24 (*The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*)

**Second Reading** Luke 6:17-26 (NRSV)

**Contemporary Reading** From “Justice for the Poor”, by Rev. Jim Wallis



### ***Time with Young Worshippers***



**Anthem:** ***Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit*** Marshall, arr. Debick

*Blessed are the poor in spirit: heaven will someday be theirs.  
Blessed are the mourning children: comfort comes from One who cares.  
Blessed the meek and patient, having courage to hang on.  
Soon all earth they will inherit; times of trials will be gone.  
Blessed all who thirst or hunger: righteously they will be fed.  
Those who respond with mercy will see mercy up ahead.  
Blessed the clean in spirit: beautiful, the pure in heart;  
One day they will see their Maker, nevermore to live apart.  
Each seeking peace and justice shall be known as God's own heir.  
Blessed, too, are those illtreated for what's good and right and fair.  
Blessed the New Creation, joy beyond what we conceive;  
Blessed all those who trust the promise: without seeing, they believe!*

(Music: Jane Marshall, 1993; words: Rusty Edwards, 1993)

**Sermon** ***Whoa!*** Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection:** ***Blessed Assurance*** #473

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

**Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. (2x)**

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Refrain)**

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

(Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873; words: Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.)

**(Refrain)**

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

Sue Renovetz, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Fred Pesek, George Snider, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., 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 (*Call to Offering*):**

One: Jesus’ beatitudes reverse all the conventional wisdom, and certainty about “How things just are!” in our world. Let’s offer our gifts generously today, to tip the balance in favor of abundant life.

#### **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]**

**With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, in Jesus’ name.**

## Going with God's Love

**\* Hymn of Departure:**     *God Our Author and Creator*

#530

1. God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,  
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.  
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;  
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.

2. Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve:  
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.  
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still;  
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.

3. Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,  
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."

Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,  
with all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.

(Music: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. John Ferguson, 1973; words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 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 (Pastor John)**

Let us go forth rejoicing,  
Working with God to create a reality of beatitude,  
where hunger is no more,  
sorrow is comforted,  
and justice is known far and wide.  
We go forth invoking God's blessing  
In the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier. Amen.

## Postlude

## Gavotte

Lully

## ***Announcements***

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are provided by Pat Rehm and Carol Miller, dedicated to the memory of Ian Jenson.

**THANK YOU!** A very big THANK YOU to the Pastor Search Team, for their efforts in bringing Reverend John King to BUCC as our new settled Pastor. The team met virtually and did endless hours of work interviewing the congregation, analyzing data, reading applications, and interviewing candidates. The process was longer and more challenging than expected, due to the pandemic. Let's show them our deepest appreciation! Thanks to **Sherrill Witt** (co-chair), **Cliff Cribbs** (co-chair), **Ben Rehling**, **Beth Rehling**, **Joy Garapic**, **Alan Klonowski** and **Jon Thompson**.  
— from the Stewardship/Leadership Development Ministry

**NEW PASTOR INSTALLATION** – Next Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be joined by Rev. Nayiri Karjian (General Minister, Living Water Association) for the official Installation of our new pastor, Rev. John King. The ceremony will be included within our regular service, there will be a reception in Pilgrim Hall immediately following.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following the service on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to confirm the proposed 2022 budget, and to vote on the 2022 officers and ministry chairpersons.

If you attend the February 27<sup>th</sup> service via YouTube, you will be guided to open a Zoom link when it's time to vote. More details will be provided as the date approaches.



## ***Announcements (continued)***

**MALTZ MUSEUM** – Please join us on February 27th at 12:00 pm, for a special presentation by the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. “Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory” is a landmark exhibit showcasing more than 60 never-before-seen personal items brought to America by Survivors of the Holocaust and genocide. Each artifact is dramatically paired with oversized photographs by renowned documentarian Jim Lommasson, with handwritten responses by Survivors or their family members.

A docent from the Maltz Museum will present the program to BUCC via Zoom in Pilgrim Hall. You may attend from home by registering in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8barkh>. Home viewers must register in advance, to be able to access the Zoom link on the day of the event. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Spangler or Carol Miller.

**BREEZE CHURCH MANAGEMENT** - Interested in learning how to use our Breeze system? The Membership Ministry will be holding a training on Monday night, February 21st at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Use the regular BUCC link to join the meeting. Bring your questions and we'll get them answered for you.

**MUSIC** – Thursday evening practice is back! Our numbers are small right now, so please consider joining us – the only requirements are a love of music and a desire to share your musical gifts. The schedule is as follows:

**Dulcimer/recorder ensemble** at 5:00

**Joyful Noise** from 5:30-6:10

**Adult Choir** from 7:00-8:30

## Readings

### First Reading

**Amos 5:21–24 (The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language)**

"I can't stand your religious meetings. I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me?

Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want."

### Second Reading

**Luke 6:17-26 (NRSV)**

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

## Readings

### Contemporary Lesson

From “Justice for the Poor,” by Rev. Jim Wallis

I was a seminary student in Chicago many years ago. We decided to try an experiment. We made a study of every single reference in the whole Bible to the poor, to God’s love for the poor, to God being the deliverer of the oppressed. We found thousands of verses on the subject. The Bible is full of the poor.

In the Hebrew scriptures, for example, it is the second most prominent theme. The first is idolatry and the two are most often connected. In the New Testament, we find that one of every sixteen verses is about poor people; in the gospels, one of every ten; in Luke, one of every seven. We find the poor everywhere in the Bible.

One member of our group was a very zealous young seminary student and he thought he would try something just to see what might happen. He took an old Bible and a pair of scissors. He cut every single reference to the poor out of the Bible. It took him a very long time.

When he was through, the Bible was very different. Because when he came to Amos and read the words, “Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,” he just cut it out. When he got to Isaiah and heard the prophet say, “Is not this the fast that I choose: to bring the homeless poor into your home, to break the yoke and let the oppressed go free?” he just cut it right out. All those Psalms that see God as a deliverer of the oppressed, they disappeared.

In the gospels, he came to Mary’s wonderful song where she says, “The mighty will be put down from their thrones, the lowly exalted, the poor filled with good things and the rich sent away empty.” Of course, you can guess what happened to that. In Matthew 25, the section about the least of these, that was gone. Luke 4, Jesus’ very first sermon, what I call his Nazareth manifesto, where he said, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to poor people” — that was gone, too. In the Beatitudes, Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor,” that was gone.

So much of the Bible was cut out; so much so that when he was through, that old Bible literally was in shreds. It wouldn’t hold together. I held it in my hand, and it was falling apart. It was a Bible full of holes. I would often take that Bible out with me to preach. I would hold it high in the air above American congregations and say, “Brothers and sister, this is the Bible of so many of our congregations. A “holey” Bible, a Bible full of holes from all we have cut out.”

# Special Thanks:

## **February 13, 2022**

**Head Usher:** Heidi Spangler

**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager

***Volunteer Needed***

**Lay Reader:** Sue Stenzel

**Greeter:** Jon Thompson

**Counters:** Marge Culver

Janet Renovetz

**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***

**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteer Needed***

**A/V Team:** Betsey Wilson

**Flowers:** Julie Bernard

**Snack:** Betsey Wilson

Sherrill Witt

**Set Up/Serve:** Sherrill Witt

***Volunteer Needed***

**Clean Up:** Dave Bernard

Sherrill Witt

**Snow Herder:** ***Volunteer Needed***

## **FEBRUARY 20, 2022**

**Head Usher:** Sue Maier

**Ushers:** Sue Stenzel

***Volunteer Needed***

**Lay Reader:** Evie Novak

**Greeter:** Peg Duffy

**Counters:** Marge Culver

Jim Duffy

**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***

**Peace Candle:** Dorothy Cook

**A/V Team:** Betsey Wilson

**Flowers:** Dorothy Cook

**Snack:** Diane Gressley

Evie Novak

Heidi Spangler

Jon Thompson

**Set Up/Serve:** Carol Miller

Heidi Spangler

Jill Zedan

**Clean Up:** Heidi Spangler

Jill Zedan

**Snow Herder:** ***Volunteer Needed***