



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*

"I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know God's thoughts; the rest are details." - Albert Einstein.

YOU
ARE →
HERE



Transfiguration Sunday, February 27th, 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 – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

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



Transfiguration Sunday February 27th, 2022

Meditation Music

"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." – Albert Einstein

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Kendrick

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Maker's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

One: Something drew us together this morning.

All: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship.

One: Some holy mystery we call God.

All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus.

One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit.

**All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and
prepare us to love the world.**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. Your life is life-giving--to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish--but naught dims your powers.
4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

(Music: Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' *Caniadaeth y Cysegr*, 1839; words: Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.)

*** Prayer of Invocation: [Unison]**

O God, you are beyond words and description, your love is beyond knowledge and explanation. Make our hearts ready to receive you. Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the glory of your transfiguration. We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*** Call to Confession:**

One: Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. "It's good for us to be here. Let's get comfortable." We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

All: **God of glory and light, forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves. Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege. Keep expecting more of us as your disciples. Keep reminding us to listen to your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance (Assurance of Grace):

One: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God. Believe and accept God's love and live in God's freedom.

All: **We believe! 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 Psalm 8 (NRSV)

Second Reading Luke 9:28-36 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament "The Pale Blue Dot", by Carl Sagan

Time with Young Worshippers

Anthem:

Christ Is My Light

Ahle

Erin Tomlinson, flute

*Christ is my light! My soul, do not despair in hours of thy distress!
The sun withdraws, and earth is dark and drear: my light will never cease.
On days of joy with splendor beaming, through nights of grief its rays are gleaming;
Christ is my light!*

*Christ is my trust! My soul, be not afraid, thy helper will abide;
"I'll not forsake thee!" He kindly said, He's ever at thy side.
In feeble age will yet stand by thee, no real good will He deny thee:
Christ is my trust!*

*The Kingdom His! Throughout the earth He reigns with wisdom, grace, and might;
The stars go on, and time its course maintains beneath His watchful sight;
In silence onward still proceeding, the universe obeys His leading,
The kingdom His!*

(Words: Johann Heinrich Karl Hengstenberg, 1825; trans. Ernst William Hengstenberg, c. 1835)

Sermon

How I Fell In Love With Stars

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection:***We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding***

#182

1. We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace.

 Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
 Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

2. Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
 Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.

 Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet:
 Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

3. Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,
 We, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.
 But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
 That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

(Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1844; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.; 1988)

The Church at Prayer

Nancy Stella, 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 to Share:**

One: The needs of our world are too numerous to name. Shelter, food, clean air and water... Our gifts touch these needs, but the biggest gift we can give is to love the world so much that we give of ourselves. Nothing will transform need more than love. So I invite you now to share what you can, in that spirit of sacred, self-giving, love.

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/Blessing of the Gifts: [Unison]**

Bless these gifts, we pray. May they represent just the beginning of our journey to show forth your glory to the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure: *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed***

#537

1. Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true, raise your work and life anew.
2. Hearts around you sink with care; you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light, strengthen them to do the right.
3. Offer others hope and joy, and God's worship your employ;
Giving thanks in humble zeal, learning all God's will to feel.
4. Come then, law divine, and reign: faith that doubt assails in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear, born in heaven and radiant here.

(Music: The Parish Choir, 1850; words: Francis A. R. Russell, 1893; alt.)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – (Acolyte)

† Benediction (Pastor John)

We have been blessed in this our prayer.
Even as Peter, James, John were blessed
By the radiance of God's love on the mountaintop.
May God now send us back down the mountain of our worship.
Blessed by the Light of the World.
Go and share the radiance of love!

Postlude *Lux Tremenda (Tremendous Light)*

Fedak



**** There is a Congregational Meeting after today's service. ****

Announcements

TODAY'S FLOWERS are provided by Pat Rehm and Carol Miller, dedicated to Pat's new great-grandson, Hendrick Dunn.

MALTZ MUSEUM – Please join us today at noon 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 today. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Spangler or Carol Miller.

Announcements (continued)

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – We will begin our Lenten journey by returning to our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, at 6:30pm in Pilgrim Hall! Dinner will be followed by a brief service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. All are invited to come and to bring a friend! Those whose last name begins with a letter from A through K, are asked to bring a loaf of bread to share. [The L through Z's will be asked to bring bread to our Maundy Thursday supper on April 14th.]

MUSIC – Seasonal choir will begin preparing for Holy Week this Thursday, March 3rd, from 7:00-7:45. During Lent, we'll meet weekly with our regular choir on Thursday nights. Seasonal choir helps enhance the sound of our regular choir during this important time of the liturgical year. CD's are provided for each vocal part, to help with the learning process. Please consider joining the seasonal choir for six weeks and making a spiritual, musical journey with us, as we prepare for the sorrows, triumphs, and mysteries of Holy Week. High school students and visitors are welcome to participate! Contact Dave Debick with any questions.

LENTEN STUDY – Next Tuesday (3/8), we will begin a six-week Lenten study of the book ***The Heart of Christianity***, by Marcus Borg. We will meet from 6:45 – 8:15pm, and you may attend as few or as many sessions as you choose! You can pick up a book today at the entrance to the sanctuary for \$13. If you prefer, you can also get a Kindle version from Amazon. Our meetings will be "hybrid" – that means that you can join sessions either in person OR online; whatever works best for you.

HOLY GROUNDS – I will be at the Brecksville Panera for coffee at 8:15 most Tuesday mornings. Anyone is welcome to stop by. There's no need for an RSVP or agenda, so you never know who might show up. Of course, if you are looking for a more traditional meeting in my office you can always set that up too. But if you're just looking for casual conversation stop by at Panera any Tuesday for a visit and some "holy grounds." – Pastor John

Readings

First Reading Psalm 8 (NRSV)

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading Luke 9:28-36 (NRSV)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Readings

Continuing Testament

"The Pale Blue Dot", by Carl Sagan

You can see the picture that inspired Carl Sagan to write this. Open the camera on your smartphone. Point it at the dots in the graphic here. Tap the words that pop up. That should open the picture on your phone. If you have any trouble, just ask one of the kids.



Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

Special Thanks:

February 27, 2022

Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Dave Bernard
 Jon Thompson
Lay Reader: Carol Miller
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Counters: Marge Culver
 Jon Thompson
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers Sherrill Witt
Snack: Caroline Chandler
 Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
 Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
 Cliff Stenzel
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

March 6th, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Heidi Spangler
 Jamie Tyler
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
 Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Heidi Spangler
 Valerie Tyler
Set Up/Serve: Sherrill Witt
 Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Sherrill Witt
 Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: **Volunteer Needed**