



BRECKSVILLE

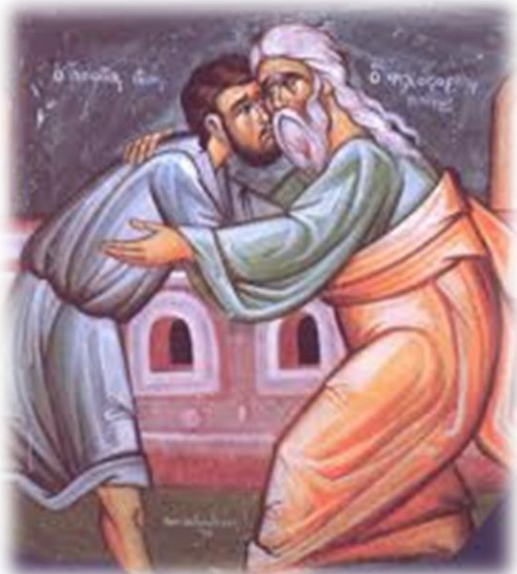
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

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

The earth is at the
same time mother,
she is the mother
of all that is
natural, mother of
all that is human.
She is the mother
of all, for
contained in her
are the seeds of
all.

- Hildegard of Bingen
(1098-1179 A.D.)



The Prodigal Love of God

Monks in the Cell of St. John the Theologian. Icon of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. 20th c., Cell of St. John the Theologian Holy Monastery, Mount Athos, Greece.

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 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!

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 27th, 2022

Meditation Music

"God is the true Father and Mother of Nature and all natures that are made to flow out of God to work the divine will, will be restored and brought again into God."

- Julian of Norwich (1343 – 1416 A.D.)

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

The Wanderer

Mendelssohn

Bearing the Light of Peace / Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:** (Inspired by **Psalm 32**)

One: Happy are those who experience the grace of God,

Many: Who find forgiveness and mercy from the Holy One.

One: Happy are those who experience the steadfast love of God,

Many: Who find peace even in times of trial.

One: Happy are those who experience rest in God,

Many: Who find sabbath to renew their spirit.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Not My Brother, nor My Sister

#519

Refrain: It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer; (twice)

1. Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer; (twice) then **Refrain**

2. Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer; (twice) then **Refrain**

3. Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer; (twice) then **Refrain**

4. Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer; (twice) then **Refrain**

(Music and words: African American spiritual; alt.)

*** Invocation: [UNISON]**

Holy God, Holy Renewal, after times of broken relationships, painful injustices, and feeling deserted, we enter this season yearning for restoration and your comforting grace. In this time of wilderness and reflection, we evaluate the relationships between us and our neighbors. Fill our weary souls with hope. Lead us on roads of renewal, and focus our minds as we ponder our callings in your realm. Amen.

*** Prayer of Reflection and Growth:**

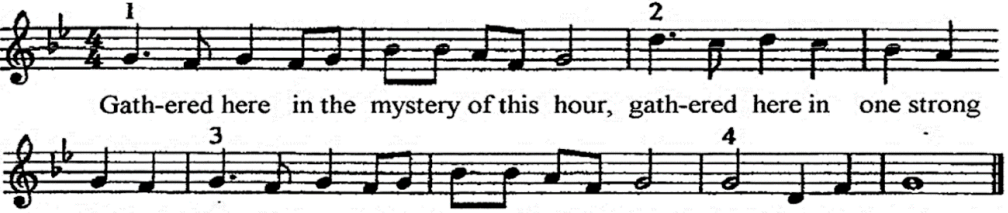
One: Holy Breath of Life, there are moments when our decisions do not take into consideration the well-being of our neighbors. There are times when our reactions turn inward instead of building healthy reconciliation. How is it that we are holding back our neighbor's rebirth? How are our implicit and explicit biases restricting God's grace and radical love? How do our actions and biases impede our own spiritual growth?

Many: Urge us to be life-giving agents of your love. May each of our steps be healing not only to us, but to our siblings on the journey. Amen.

*** Assurance of God's Grace: (Pastor John)**

God's grace and mercy abound. God is with us in the change. God's everlasting arms embrace us. Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free. Amen.

Gathered Here (sung 2 times) #742



Gath-ered here in the mystery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong
bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1 and 2, and the second staff contains measures 3 and 4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)

Second Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament *Hildegard of Bingen's Book of Divine Works*, by Matthew Fox



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem: **Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive** N. Amrcn. folk hymn melody, arr. Debick

*'Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*But can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!*

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease.

Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Words: Rosamund E. Herklots (1905-1987)

Sermon ***The Prodigious Family Therapist*** Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection: ***Softly and Tenderly*** #449, v. 1, 2 & 4

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See at the portals Christ waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

**Refrain: Come home, come home, All who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling--calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not God's mercies, mercies for you and for me? **(Refrain)**

4. O for the wonderful love Jesus promised, promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, Jesus offers us pardon, pardon for you and for me. **(Refrain)**

The Church at Prayer

Lenore Harris, Nancy Stella, Sue Renovetz, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Fred Pesek, George Snider, 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

[the additional use of “Mother” is optional, according to

Our Lord’s Prayer *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

Reflection on Giving:

Pastor John: Even when our gifts become dormant, God our Divine Parent stirs our hearts, calling us to bring to life our gifts once again. What gifts may God be challenging us to revive? How can these treasures, talents, and time create equitable communities?

And we pray together:

All: Loving God, Holy Fountain of Blessings, with gratitude, we celebrate the offerings we share with you and this community today. May they enliven our spirits, building excitement around us, and creating a culture of giving. Open us to new possibilities for using our gifts to build the dignity of all and to strengthen our neighborhoods. Amen.

*** Offertory Hymn:** **We now are in the time of Lent,
To learn again what Jesus meant.
His life and message are so great,
We send these gifts to celebrate. Amen.**

Going with God’s Love

*** Hymn of Departure** ***Take My Life, God, Let It Be*** **#448**

1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.
3. Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.
4. Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s community.
(Music: Justin H. Knecht, 1797; words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.)

Hear Our Prayer, O God

#769



† **Benediction** (Pastor John)

May our spirits come alive in this season of Lent
When we run to God, our Divine Parent, with the hopes of strengthening our bonds,
When we embrace the Christ, our Divine Neighbor, with the hopes of reconciliation,
When we breathe with the Spirit, our Divine Encourager, in the hopes of peace. Amen.

Postlude ***Ye Followers of the Prince of Peace*** Setting by Alice Parker
(Music and words: ***The Brethren's Tune and Hymn Book***,
1879; tune attrib. Robert Robinson, 1735-1790)

Announcements

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Pat Rehm and Carol Miller, "To children of all ages, everywhere."

LENTEN STUDY – This Tuesday (3/29), will be the fourth of our six-week Lenten study of the book ***The Heart of Christianity***, by Marcus Borg. To prepare for this meeting, read through chapters 7 & 8. We will meet from 6:45 – 8:15pm, and you may attend either in-person or online - to join online, go to the website's calendar and click on the meeting listing.

FLOWERS - Flowers in the chancel area add a special touch to our Sunday morning worship. BUCC is now using the computer program Breeze to sign up and participate many ways in the Sunday services, flowers being one of them. If you care to provide flowers for the service, please sign in the flower space the week you would like to do it. You will be bringing in an arrangement, cut flowers or a plant, then taking it home or giving to someone you care about.

Dedications are handled another way. There is a calendar on the wall just inside the double doors to the narthex. Please put your name on the calendar for the date you would like, take a form from beneath the calendar and fill it out, and turn in with your payment to Joy Garapic. A member of our flower team will have the flowers up front on the designated Sunday. You may take the flowers with you following the service. See Janet Renovetz if you have questions.

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

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world, not counting our trespasses against us, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making this appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Second Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (NRSV)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' "

"So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Second Reading (continued)

“But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.”

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'”

“Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'”

Continuing Testament

By Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179 A.D.)

“I heard a voice speaking to me: ‘The young woman whom you see is Love. She has her tent in eternity... It was love which was the source of this creation in the beginning when God said: ‘Let it be!’ And it was. As though in the blinking of an eye, the whole creation was formed through love. The young woman is radiant in such a clear, lightning-like brilliance of countenance that you can’t fully look at her... She holds the sun and moon in her right hand and embraces them tenderly... The whole of creation calls this maiden ‘Lady.’ For it was from her that all of creation proceeded, since Love was the first. She made everything... Love was in eternity and brought forth, in the beginning of all holiness, all creatures without any admixture of evil. Adam and Eve, as well, were produced by love from the pure nature of the Earth.”

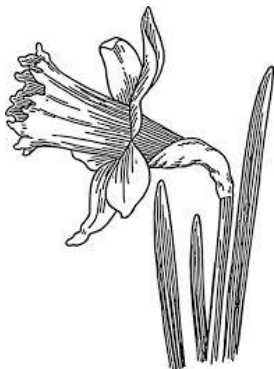
Special Thanks:

March 27, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressly
Ushers: Jane Cribbs
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: Evelyn Kuzmins
Peace Candle: Perter Kuzmins
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Tia Began
Snack: Jon Thompson
Betsey Wilson
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***

April 3, 2022

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Diane Gressley
Heidi Spangler
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***



**CELEBRATE EASTER
WITH FLOWERS
IN OUR SANCTUARY**



Your Donation will buy plants that will be shared after Easter, with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office.

DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

I Enclose \$12.00(?) for an Easter Plant: cash_____ check#:_____

“In Memory of _____ ***”***

“In Honor of _____ ***”***

Other:

Your Name