

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***



“There is
a force of love
moving through
the universe
that holds us fast
and will never
let us go.”

-Julian of Norwich
(1343 – 1416 A.D.)

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3rd, 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!

Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 3rd, 2022

Meditation Music

"You may write me down in history / with your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt, / but still, like dust, I'll rise.
You may shoot me with your words, / You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness, / But still, like air, I'll rise."

- Maya Angelou

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of All

Bell

*"Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.*

Bring healing, bring peace."

(Words and music: John L. Bell, 1949--)

Words and Music © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Bearing the Light of Peace / Bearing the Light of Christ

* Call to Worship:

Leader: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

People: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

Leader: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

People: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

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

#459

1. Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

2. Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.
(Music: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813; words: Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.)

*** Invocation: [UNISON]**

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

Gathered Here (sung 2 times)

#742

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two measures of the melody, with a '1' above the first measure and a '2' above the second measure. The second staff contains the next two measures, with a '3' above the first measure and a '4' above the second measure. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

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.

*** Prayer for Transformation and Restoration: [UNISON]**

Righteous God, you made us in your divine image and yet we often turn to the gazes of others to see ourselves. We yield to the temptation of comparison and measure ourselves according to standards not made for us. You declared us good, and we question your judgment. We turn from your truth and receive the lies of the enemy of our souls that devalue and condemn even though your grace is sufficient for us. Mend the brokenness within us. Fortify us with your love, hope, and vision. Shield us from stagnation and despair. Amen.

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

Second Reading

John 11:1-44 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament

The Greatest Miracle in the World, by Og Mandino



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem:

Lift Me Up!

Weston

*Refrain: Lift me up, lift me higher than the sky;
Lift me up, your holy name I glorify;
Lift me up on eagle's wings, up to where my heart can sing;
Lift me up, Lord, lift me up, yes, Lord.*

*Standing in your presence, Lord, a sinner, now I come,
Seeking still the things that are above.
Lead me to the crystal font of your redeeming love.
I'm renewed, I'm restored, I'm reborn. (Refrain)*

*From the depths of sin and shame, I cry to you, my Lord,
For your grace is all the help I need.
Lift the heavy burden, Lord, and set my spirit free.
I'm renewed, I'm restored, I'm reborn. (Refrain)*

(Words and Music by Mark Weston, 2002)

Sermon

The Lazarus Effect

Pastor John King

1. God loved the world, and loving gave
a wondrous gift, the lost to save,
That all who would in Christ believe
should everlasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
All who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.
3. If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus saves us all from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God in Christ
forgives the flock, by sin enticed,
And justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.

(Music: Anonymous, adapt. Edward Miller, 1790; words: Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778; transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Fred Pesek, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, George Snider, Tina Ortiz, 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, 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

...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

*** 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.

***Prayer of Dedication: [UNISON]**

Spirit of Life, we offer our lives with these gifts, that they may become a fertile plain of green life and strengthened hope, for all who live in the valley of dry bones. May the wind of your love carry these gifts far beyond us, to the places most in need of your compassionate grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

#788

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. (twice)

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

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Dear God, Embracing Humankind* #502, v. 1, 2 & 5

1. Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of your word, let us, like them, by spirit stirred,
rise up and followers be.

5. Breathe through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

(Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1887; words: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.)

Hear Our Prayer, O God

#769



† Benediction (Pastor John)

Postlude

Lead Me, Lord

Wesley

"Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,
Make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou Lord, Thou Lord only
that makest me dwell in safety."

(Words and music by Samuel S. Wesley, 1861)

Announcements

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Pat Rehm and Carol Miller, "In celebration of the birth of Camdyan Rehm."

LENTEN STUDY – This Tuesday (4/5), will be the fifth of our six-week Lenten study of the book ***The Heart of Christianity***, by Marcus Borg. To prepare for this meeting, read through chapters 9 & 10. 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 – There's still time to make your Easter flower dedications! Please see the back of the bulletin for the request form.

If you'd like to provide flowers for a particular Sunday service, please either put your name in Breeze (link in email) under the "Flowers" category or leave a message at the church office. You would bring in an arrangement, cut flowers, etc., on your chosen Sunday, and then take them home or give them to someone you care about.

If you want to make a dedication to be published in the bulletin, just follow these three steps: 1) Find your chosen date on the calendar in the narthex and sign your name there; 2) Complete a ***Flower Dedication Request*** form, located beneath the calendar; 3) Turn in that form and your payment to Joy Garapic. A member of our flower team will have the flowers up front on the designated Sunday, and you may take them 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

The hand of YHWH was upon me, and it carried me away by the Spirit of YHWH and set me down in a valley—a valley full of bones. God made me walk up and down among them. And I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying there in the valley, and they were very dry.

God asked me, “Mere mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “Only you know that, Sovereign YHWH.”

And God said, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH! Sovereign YHWH says to these bones: I am going to breathe life into you. I will fasten sinews on you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin, and give you breath. And you will live; and you will know that I am Sovereign YHWH.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and all the bones came together, bone to matching bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh clothed them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, “Prophecy to the wind;*” prophecy, mere mortal, and say to it: ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: Approach from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’” I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them; they came alive, and stood up on their feet - a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, “Mere mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. The people keep saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is gone, and we are doomed.’ Prophecy, therefore, and say to them, ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: I am going to open your graves and raise you up from the dead, my people. I will return you to the land of Israel. When I open your graves and raise you up, you, my people, will know that I am YHWH. Then I will put my Spirit into you, and you will return to life.’”

* The Hebrew word for breath, רֵיחַ (*ruach*) is the same word used for wind and spirit (or Spirit), so this phrase could be translated, “Prophecy to the *breath*” or “Prophecy to the *Spirit*.”

Readings

Second Reading

John 11:1-44 (NRSV)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, in the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

***(continued on next
page)***

Readings

Second Reading (continued)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Readings

Continuing Testament

Og Mandino – The Greatest Miracle in the World

I placed my hand upon you, once more, and endowed you with powers unknown to any other creature in the universe, even unto this day.

I gave you the power to think. I gave you the power to love.

I gave you the power to will. I gave you the power to laugh.

I gave you the power to imagine. I gave you the power to create.

I gave you the power to plan. I gave you the power to speak.

I gave you the power to pray.

My pride in you knew no bounds. You were my ultimate creation, my greatest miracle. A complete living being.

I gave you ... the power to choose. You had the power to choose to degenerate into the lowest forms of life, but you also had the power, out of your soul's judgment, to be reborn into the higher forms, which are divine. I have never withdrawn your great power, the power to choose.

What have you done with this tremendous force? Look at yourself. Think of the choices you have made in your life and recall, now, those bitter moments when you would fall to your knees if only you had the opportunity to choose again. What is past is past.

Use wisely, your power of choice.

Choose to love ... rather than hate. Choose to laugh ... rather than cry.

Choose to create ... rather than destroy. Choose to persevere ... rather than quit.

Choose to praise ... rather than gossip. Choose to heal ... rather than wound.

Choose to give ... rather than steal. Choose to act ... rather than procrastinate.

Choose to grow ... rather than rot. Choose to pray ... rather than curse.

Choose to live ... rather than die.

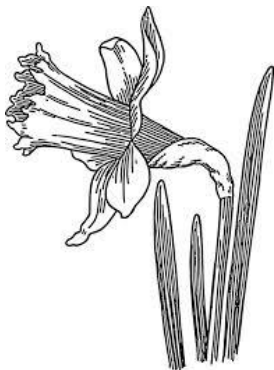
Special Thanks:

April 3, 2022

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Caroline Chandler
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: Allison Colbert
Carol Miller
Clean Up: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: *Volunteer Needed*

April 10, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Jane Cribbs
Diane Gressley
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Diane Gressley
Betsey Wilson
Set Up/Serve: Sherrill Witt
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Sherrill Witt
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

