

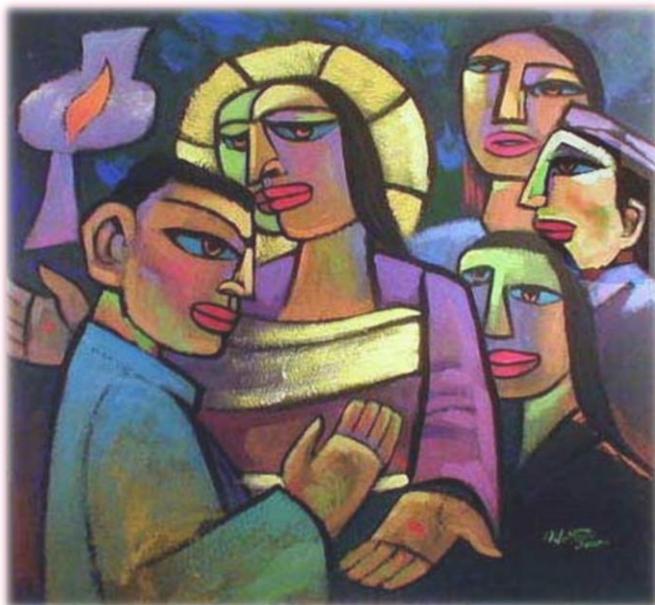


BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

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

"Do something outside yourself. Something to repair tears in your community. Something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is - living not for oneself, but for one's community."
- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



The Doubt of St. Thomas by He Qi (2001)

Second Sunday of Easter, April 24th, 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!

Second Sunday of Easter - April 24th, 2022

Meditation Music

Jesus said, "Reach out and touch me. See the punctures in my hands. – John 20:27

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude *The Blessed Christ Is Risen Today* Setting by J. S. Bach

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

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: God's strong and loving hands are outstretched to all Creation.

All: Let the world stretch forth and grasp God's hands with joy. God's open hands are as the gate of righteousness. Let us enter into God's abundant life and give thanks. In God's hands are new life, strength, and salvation. Let us be thankful and sing unto our God with gladness.

*** Hymn of Praise** *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day* #241

1. Joy dawned again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear, the Risen Christ to them appeared.

2. O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One, come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise.

3. O Sovereign One, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield.

(Music: 15th century German carol; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; words: Latin, c. 5th century;
transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.)

*** Prayer of Invocation & Repentance: [UNISON]**

O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love. We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace. Our week has left worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices, and unexpected disappointments. We are weary. We long to hear the word you spoke thrice on that first Easter Day: Peace. Peace. Peace.

Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens, as we empty our cares into your loving hands. Extend to us your joy. Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life! Pour into us the freshness of your new life; for you are our strength and our might. How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us. Amen! Alleluia!

***Pastor's Prayer**

Song of Praise: ***Glory to God*** Pablo Sosa, 1988

*Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)*

*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

Acts 5:17-32 (NRSV)

Second Reading

John 20:19-31 (The Voice Translation)

Continuing Testament St. Theresa of Avila



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem***Christ Has No Body Now But Yours***

Warner

Becky Anderson, flute

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.*

*No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suff'ring,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.*

*No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.*

*No feet but yours to journey with the poor, to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.*

*Through every gift, give back to those in need:
As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with every gift a benediction be to the people of God.*

(Music by Steven C. Warner, b. 1954; words by St. Teresa of Ávila, 1515-1582; adapt. by S.C.W.)

Sermon***To Touch the Wounds of Christ***

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection:

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

#433

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

(Music and Words: Natalie Sleeth, 1985)

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Marjorie Rahnenfehrer, The Family & Friends of Fred Pesek, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Allison Colbert, 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 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.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Offertory Prayer: [UNISON]**
From our hearts and from our hands,
we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you,
O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen! Alleluia!

Going with God's Love

*Hymn of Departure *The Day of Resurrection* #245

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

(Music: Henry T. Smart, 1836; words: John of Damascus, 8th century; transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.)

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)

Postlude

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Darwall

*Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*
(Music: John Darwall, 1770; words: Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.)

****A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR** : 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**

Announcements

FLOWERS – Today's flowers are from Pat Rehm & Carol Miller, dedicated “In memory of Marjorie R., who was very kind.”

OFFERINGS – This morning we welcome back offering plates to our worship service. Please put your offering in an envelope (provided in the pew-back in front of you) and pass your envelope to the center aisle for the usher to collect when instructed to do so. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – There will be a CE meeting today after the service - if you're interested in teaching/working with the children in the congregation, please join us! Just head downstairs, grab some refreshments and meet us in the library (on the left, before the stairway). See Mindy Harris-Wade if you have any questions, and please consider sharing your talents and wisdom with our kids!

BUCC NURSERY – After a long closure of the nursery due to the COVID pandemic, Council has approved the reopening and staffing of the nursery. The nursery has been thoroughly cleaned and is ready to greet our little ones. Before the Staff Congregation Relations Ministry fills the Church Nursery Attendant position with a permanent employee, we would like to assess the need. We are looking for several adult volunteers who would be willing to staff the nursery one to two Sundays, over a two-month period. We would ask that the volunteer arrive 10-15 minutes before the service. If there are no children in the nursery after the Children's Sermon concludes, the volunteer is free to leave the nursery. You may sign up using Breeze, or you may contact either Evie Novak of the SCR Ministry or the church office, if you are willing to help out.

LENTEN STUDY – On Tuesday, 4/26, we will have the final session of our study of the book ***The Heart of Christianity***, by Marcus Borg. To prepare for this meeting, read through chapters 10 & 11. 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.

OCWM – BUCC and Our Church's Wider Mission will be taking an offering on May 8th, to benefit Edna House in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of Edna House is to give women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction a chance at a new life, by providing a safe, sober place to live. Edna House is independent of government funding, and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities they serve. In addition to cash donations, there is a specific need for two books: ***Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions***, and ***Alcoholics Anonymous (4th edition) of the Big Book, the Basic Text for Alcoholics Anonymous***. Both are available on Amazon and can be sent directly to Edna House, at 2007 West 65th St., Cleveland, OH, 44102. Please consider contributing to this amazing organization on May 8th.

Readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 5:17-32 (NRSV)

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life."

When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside."

Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. Then someone arrived and announced, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted Christ as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things."

Readings

Second Reading

John 20:19-31 (The Inclusive Bible Translation)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound." On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

Continuing Testament – By St. Teresa of Avila

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Special Thanks:

April 24, 2022

Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 Kathy Smith
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Carol Miller
Nursery: Annette Pedersen
Counters: Marge Culver
 Pat Rehm
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers Dorie Gabor
Snack: Pat Rehm
 Lois Lorenzo
 Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Cliff Stenzel
 Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
 Cliff Stenzel

May 1, 2022

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Diane Gressley
 Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: Val Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
 Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Snack: Diane Gressley
 Jon Thompson
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
 Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Dave Bernard
 Volunteer Needed

Notes: _____
