



# BRECKSVILLE

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## 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***

May God bless  
you with  
discomfort  
at easy answers,  
half-truths,  
and superficial  
relationships,  
so that you may  
live deep within  
your heart.  
- Sister Ruth Fox



**Third Sunday of Easter, May 1<sup>st</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!**

# Third Sunday of Easter – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

## Meditation Music

*May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world.*  
- Sister Ruth Fox

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

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

**Prelude**

***Open My Eyes, That I May See***

Scott

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

### **\* Invitation to Worship:**

ONE: On the shores of Galilee, Peter pulled up empty nets and felt discouraged.  
Sister, brother, if you feel discouraged, disappointed, let's gather in prayer!

**ALL: We'll cast our nets again into Christ's abundance.**

ONE: Peter saw the risen Christ, but did not recognize Christ right away.  
If you lift your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, look again - and gather in prayer!

**ALL: We'll find the Risen Christ in all Creation.**

ONE: Peter left everything to follow Jesus, yet saw him betrayed and crucified.  
If your life is filled with mourning, Come - gather in prayer!

**ALL: Christ is leading a dance of joy.**

ONE: Come here, sisters and brothers!

**ALL: To give blessing and honor and glory to God!**

### **\* Hymn of Praise**

### ***Morning Has Broken***

Traditional Gaelic melody

1. Morning has broken like the first morning; / blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, / like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning / born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!  
(Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931)

**\* Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]**

Generous God, Giver of all that is good, Creator of all that is beautiful, you have blessed us with abundance, more than enough for everyone to share. Out of this abundance you call us to care for each other.

Awaken us to the beauty and bounty of your Creation. May we protect the beauty of all that is yours and nurture your bounty for our children and our children's children. Amen.

**\* 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 9:1-21 (NRSV)**

**Second Reading**

**John 21:1-19 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament** Joyce Hollyday



***Time with Young Worshippers***



**Anthem**

***Feed My Sheep***

Tipton

*Do you love me, do you care? With the hungry do you share?  
With the lonely do you walk, hear their problems, let them talk?*

***Refrain:*** *Feed my lambs, feed my sheep; if you love me, my loved ones keep.  
Feed my lambs, feed my sheep; if you love me, feed my sheep.*

*Do you love me, do you care? With the needy do you share?  
Do you listen, do you see? Feed my lambs and you're feeding me.*

*Do you love me, do you care for the lost in their despair,  
finding only empty days, meaning gone and nothing to praise? (Refrain)*

(Words and Music by Clyde Tipton; © 2000 Abingdon Press)

**Sermon**

***Moving the Fence***

Pastor John King

## Hymn of Reflection:

## *Amazing Grace*

#547, v. 1-4

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.  
(Music: Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829; words: John Newton, 1779; alt.)

## *The Church at Prayer*

The Family & Friends of Marjorie Rahnenfeuhrer, 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.

**Offertory Music:      *This Is a Day of New Beginnings***

Young

*"Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do.*

*This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new."*

(Music: Carlton R. Young, 1984; words: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987; words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.)

**\* Prayer of Dedication of Our Offerings: [UNISON]**

**Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people. Grant that this offering, given in thanksgiving for all the blessings you have given us, will fill empty hearts with love, and will proclaim your honor and glory, in the name of Christ Jesus to all people. Amen**

***Holy Communion***

**Communion Hymn:      *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing***

#459, v. 1 & 2

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.

(Music: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813; words: Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.)



**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]**

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. Amen.**

# Going with God's Love

\*Hymn of Departure      *Now the Green Blade Rises*

#238

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;  
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

**Refrain: Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: **(Refrain)**

3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,  
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: **(Refrain)**

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: **(Refrain)**

(Music: French noel, 15th century; words: John M. C. Crum, 1928; 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** *Lord of the Dance* (19th century Shaker tune; adapt. Sydney Carter, 1963)  
Assisted by Percussion Group

Thanks for joining us today!



## Announcements

**FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are from Maureen Stanley, "In remembrance of Terry Heiman's mother, Beverly, and my mother, Edna Stanley."

**OFFERINGS** – If you don't have a member envelope, please feel free to use an envelope provided in the pew-back in front of you. Please 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.

**OCWM** – BUCC and Our Church's Wider Mission will be taking an offering on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 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: The Big Book (Fourth Edition)***. 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. – Pastor John

**PENTECOST & BUTTERFLIES** – The Stewardship ministry is inviting children and adults of all ages and abilities, to help prepare for our Pentecost Sunday butterfly release by adopting a caterpillar (or two), so you can foster them into painted lady butterflies in your homes. On a couple Sundays in May, we will be handing out kits with caterpillars in individual cups along with small emergence containers and detailed instructions on how to help the caterpillars metamorphosize into butterflies. Then you can bring them back to church on Sunday June 5, and help with our butterfly release. Don't worry if you've never done this before, our kits are easy to use and we can provide any advice you will need. We hope you will participate in this interesting and inspirational activity.



## Readings

### **First Reading** **Acts 9:1-21 (NRSV)**

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

He asked, "Who are you, Sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. God said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am."

The God said to him, "Get up and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, Saul, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But God said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and rulers and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Messiah of God." All who heard Saul were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name?"

## Readings

### **Second Reading** **John 21:1-19 (NRSV)**

After [the risen Christ appeared to the disciples] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.

Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No."

He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is Jesus!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Jesus, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

## **Continuing Testament – By Joyce Hollyday**

The beautifully moving scene of Jesus' conversation with Peter on the beach contains all the irony, poignancy, and background scenery of a spectacular climax to a great story.

The scene opens in the same way that Peter's relationship with Jesus began long before: Peter and the others are in their boat; they have fished all night and caught nothing; Jesus tells them to lower their net one more time; the net is too heavy with fish to haul in.

Peter's response was instantaneous. He threw on his clothes and jumped overboard, bounding toward the figure on the beach whom he knew to be Jesus. The others were left fumbling with the awkwardly overflowing net.

Jesus already had a charcoal fire going. He shared bread and fish with them, just as he had done so miraculously on a mountaintop before. Not a word was spoken—nothing needed to be said. What gentle and joyous communion!

Then Jesus turned compassionately toward Peter. The echo of the rooster's crow likely still reverberated in Peter's soul, the pain of his three denials overwhelming. It had been a dawn much like this one, the stabbing light that day exposing his fear and cowardice. But on this morning, the light encircled the gentle face of Jesus.

"Peter, do you love me?" Jesus asked three times. And with each affirmation, a denial was healed and forgiven. Do you love me? Do you really love me?

Peter finally understood. This time, he knew he was willing to go to his own death to keep the faith. Jesus knew it, too. What a poignant moment as Jesus proclaimed again that first invitation issued on this shore many months before: "Follow me."

The moral was clear. No fear is too great to overcome, no sin too great to be forgiven. Love, indeed, conquers all.

# Special Thanks:

## May 1, 2022

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Heidi Spangler  
**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:** Allison Colbert  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Clean Up:** Dave Bernard  
Caroline Chandler  
Bob Chandler

## May 8, 2022

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Heidi Spangler  
**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan  
**Greeter:** Dorie Gabor  
**Nursery:** Val Duffy  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Dorie Gabor  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** Tia Began  
**Snack:** Heidi Spangler  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Set Up/Serve:** Bill Witt  
Sherrill Witt  
**Clean Up:** Bill Witt  
Sherrill Witt