

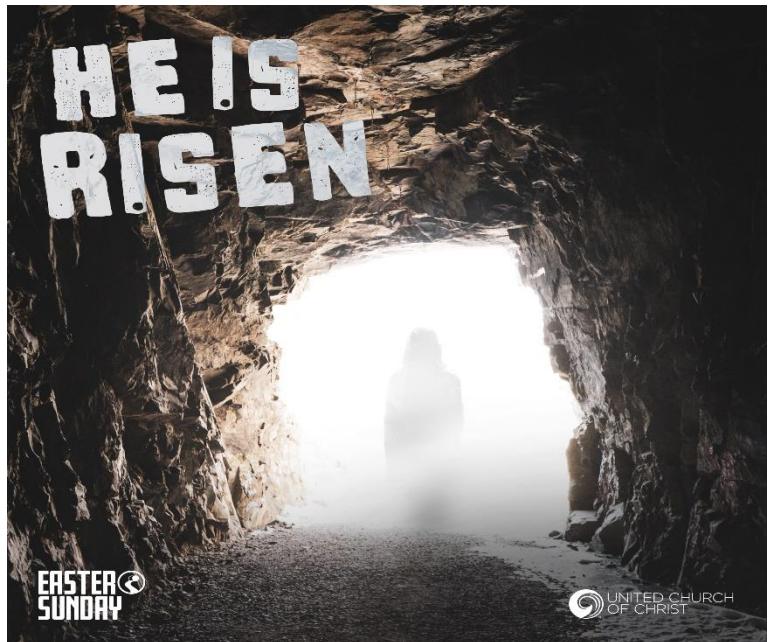


BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

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

“Hearts rebuilt
from hope
resurrect dreams
killed by hate.”
—Aberjhani,
*The River of
Winged Dreams*



Easter Sunday, April 17th, 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!

Easter Sunday – April 17th, 2022

Meditation Music

Spring comes on the World-
I sight the Aprils-
Hueless to me until thou come
As, till the Bee
Blossoms stand negative,
Touched to Conditions
By a Hum. -Emily Dickinson

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia Traditional Tanzanian melody
Dulcimer/Recorder Ensemble;
Betsey Wilson and Becky Anderson, flute;
Craig Ramsey, guitar; Bob Chandler, percussion
*"Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!"*
(Words: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; transl. H. S. Olson, b. 1922)

Easter Introit

Alleluia Henkes
Joyful Noise and Adult Choirs;
Carrie Coyer-Westerberg, trumpet

Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

One: Easter morning announces the Resurrection of Jesus!

All: We gather to join our voices to those of Earth and Heaven. We celebrate the new life that God is bringing forth!

One: This is the day that God has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

One: Out of the doom of death and despair, Victory comes, glory appears.

All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

One: We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds of the God whose love endures forever.

All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

* **Hymn of Praise**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Shani Diggs, timpani

#233

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia! God has opened paradise, Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

(Music: Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708; words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]**

O, Redeeming God, like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb, we, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work with our own teary eyes. In this hour, O God, lift us up with Christ, through the movement of the Holy Spirit, so that others may be awakened through our preaching and proclaiming the Good News: news of healing, peace, justice, and community for all people. Amen.

***Invitation to Confession** (Pastor John)

***Words of Repentance: [UNISON]**

Creator of all life, God of the living, in a world where dreams and joy are too often entombed, you call us, us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we meet you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.

***Assurance of Grace** (Pastor John)

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 of the Apostles 10:34-43 (The Voice Translation)

Second Reading John 20: 1-18

Continuing Testament Rev. Michael Howard

Youth Anthem ***Jesus Is Alive Today*** Trad. East African, add'l words D. Debick
Joyful Noise Choir

1. *Jesus is alive today, oh praise his name!*
2. *Christ has risen from the dead, oh praise his name!*
3. *See the stone is rolled away, oh praise his name!*
4. *Heaven's gates are opened wide, oh praise his name!*
5. *Jesus is alive today, oh praise his name!*



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem ***To God Be Joyful*** Mozart, arr. Hopson; adapt. Debick
Rob Howell, violin

*To God be joyful; all hearts now be joyful! Alleluia, alleluia.
To God be joyful; all hearts now be joyful!
Jesus Christ has been raised; alleluia! (twice)*
*Life and love have triumphed over death and sin.
For as all died in Adam, all have been made alive in Jesus, Jesus our Savior.
To God be joyful; all hearts now be joyful! Alleluia, alleluia.
Break forth in song, heaven and earth, sing God's praises.
Blessing and honor and glory be unto the Lamb!
Blessing and honor and glory be unto the Lamb that was slain,
and who reigns now on high!
The stone that was rejected has now become the cornerstone victorious,
Christ, our Redeemer.
To God be joyful; all hearts now be joyful! Alleluia, alleluia.
Break forth in song, heaven and earth, sing God's praises.
Blessing and honor and glory be to the Lamb!
Blessing and honor and glory be unto the Lamb that was slain,
and who reigns now on high!*

(Music: W. A. Mozart, 1756-1791; arr. Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933; adapt. D. Debick, b. 1957)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection: *The Strife Is O'er*

#242

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has
dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy out-burst. Alleluia!
3. The three sad days are quickly sped, Christ rises glorious from the dead:
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!
4. Christ, by your wounds on Calvary from death's dread sting your servants free,
That we may live eternally. Alleluia! **(Refrain)**

(Music: Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, 1591; arr. William H. Monk, 1861; words: Latin, c. 1695; transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Marge 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.**

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

Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be the resurrection we need to see in the world.



Choir

Away with Gloom, Away with Doubt!

Debick

1. Away with gloom, away with doubt!
With all the morning stars we sing;
with all the hosts of heav'n we shout
the praises of a King,
alleluia! alleluia! of our returning King! (twice)

2. Away with death, and welcome life;
in him we died and live again;
and welcome peace, away with strife!
for he returns to reign,
alleluia! alleluia! the Crucified shall reign. (twice)

Bridge: Away with death, and welcome life;
and welcome peace, away with strife!
away with gloom, away with doubt!
with all the hosts of heav'n we shout;
with all the morning stars we sing the praises of a King!

3. Then welcome beauty, he is fair;
and welcome youth, for she is young;
and welcome spring; and ev'rywhere
let merry songs be sung,
alleluia! alleluia! for such a King be sung!
(Music: David Debick; words: Edward Shillito, 1872-1948)

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

God of Love, we give you thanks for the presence of our Risen Savior, in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's presence, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love, and that your people may be a sign of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure** *Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!* #253

1. Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;
conquered is the grave in which your body lay.
Refrain: Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
2. See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared;
do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;
tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting. (Refrain)
3. Am I still frightened? One whom I adore,
Jesus, lives again, gives peace forevermore.
Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head;
Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread. (Refrain)

(Music: G. F. Handel, 1751; words: E. L. Budry, 1904; transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993)



Circle of Community

This Easter Sunday we resume a pre-pandemic tradition. All who are able are invited to stand and move to form a circle around the perimeter of the pews in the sanctuary. If you feel comfortable doing so, we can join hands with one another. We leave an opening in the circle, symbolic of the idea that we are always ready to welcome another to join the circle.

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

† **Benediction** (Pastor John)

Postlude

Guardian

Rob Howell, violin

Stirling; arr. Russell/Stirling



Announcements

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.

BUCC NURSERY – After a long closure of the nursery due to the COVID pandemic, Council has approved the reopening and staffing of the nursery. 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 by 10:10 am, they are free to leave the nursery. You may sign up using Breeze or you may contact Evie Novak of the SCR Ministry or the church office, if you are willing to help out. Please also let us know if you or someone you know may be interested in the permanent position.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – There will be a CE meeting next Sunday, 4/24, for all those interested in teaching/working with the children in the congregation. We will meet after the service, in the library (downstairs) at 11:15am, during fellowship hour. Please consider sharing your talents and wisdom with our kids!

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

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (The Voice Translation)

Peter stood up and said: “It is clear to me now that God plays no favorites, that God accepts every person whatever his or her culture or ethnic background, that God welcomes all who are reverent and do right. *You already know that* God sent a message to the people of Israel; it was a message of peace, peace through Jesus the Anointed—who is King of all people. You know this message spread through Judea, beginning in Galilee where John called people to be ritually cleansed through baptism. You know God identified Jesus as the uniquely chosen One by pouring out the Holy Spirit on Him, by empowering Him. You know Jesus went through the land doing good for *all* and healing all who were suffering under the oppression of evil, for God was with Him. My friends and I stand as witnesses to all Jesus did in *the region of Judea* and *the city of Jerusalem*. The people of our capital city killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him up on the third day and made it possible for us to see Him. Not everyone was granted this privilege, only those of us whom God chose as witnesses. We actually ate and drank with Him after His resurrection. He told us to spread His message to everyone and to tell them that He is the One whom God has chosen to be Judge, *to make a just assessment of all people*—both living and dead. All the prophets tell us about Him and assert that every person who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

Second Reading

John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

(continued on next page)

Readings

Second Reading (continued)

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Creator. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Creator and your Creator, to my God and your God.’ ”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Continuing Testament – By Rev. Michael Howard, Minister of Faith and Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast, UCC

Gardens are a central biblical theme. The first few pages of scripture begin in the context of the Garden of Eden. Smack in the middle of the Bible, in the very first Psalm, we are told that the just are like trees planted by streams of water that yield fruit every season. The last chapter of Revelation paints an image of the city of God where trees are planted on either side of the river of life with leaves that are for the healing of the nations. The garden images found across the scriptural terrain seem to underline the importance of the Easter sunrise moment in John’s gospel when Mary mistakes Jesus for a gardener (John 20:14-15). Perhaps it wasn’t a mistake...

(continued on next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament (continued)

The “Contrarian Farmer” from Kentucky, Wendell Berry, has a lot of important things to say about faith, God, and creation. But he doesn’t always have the best things to say about institutionalized religion...

“The contempt for the world or hatred of it, which is exemplified both by the wish to exploit it for the sake of cash and by the willingness to despise it for the sake of ‘salvation,’ has reached a terrifying climax in our own time. The rift between the soul and the body, Creator and creation, has admitted the entrance into the world of the world’s doom.”

For those of us that follow Jesus, escapism, apathy, or antipathy are not options. What if practicing the resurrection means we see the sacred things in the world that have been discarded and desecrated and then removed by the incarnational heart of God to restore them to belovedness? What if God’s love for the world is of such immeasurable worth that its rescue is of unrivaled importance? What if God wants us to have such a deep and abiding love for the world that our entire lives are to be shaped by it? Faith, as I see it, means responding God’s love for the world by being willing to do new, risky, and even costly things. What if our vocation comes from hearing the voice of God calling out to practice resurrection? If we get it right, we should not be surprised if we, like Jesus, get mistaken for gardeners.



Special Thanks:

April 17, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Sue Stenzel
 Jon Thompson
Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Greeter: Evelyn Seager
 Dave Bernard
Nursery: Evie Novak
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: Evelyn Kuzmins
Peace Candle: Peter Kuzmins
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers Janet Renovetz
 Sue Stenzel
Snack: Paul Kuzmins
 Lois Lorenzo
 Betsey Wilson
Set Up/Serve: Melanie Kuzmins
 Paul Kuzmins
Clean Up: Melanie Kuzmins
 Paul Kuzmins

April 24, 2022

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



2022 Easter Flower Dedications

Dedicated By:

Shelley Forbes	<i>In Loving Memory of My Parents, Benjamin & Lucille Forbes, and My Grandparents, Mildred & Elmer Wright</i>
Dorie Gabor	<i>In Memory of Family Members Gone but Not Forgotten</i>
Joy Garapic	<i>In Memory of William Garapic</i>
Diane Gressley	<i>In Memory of My Parents, Evan & Emma</i>
Linda Kriynovich & Julie Bernard	<i>In Memory of Anton, Julie & Lori Gorenc</i>
The MacKeigan-King Family	<i>In Memory of Helen MacKeigan & Dorothy Teufel</i>
The Rahnenfuehrer's	<i>In Honor of Marjorie & Jan Rahnenfuehrer In Memory of Fred Pesek</i>
Pat Rehm & Carol Miller	<i>In Honor of Our Miller & Rehm Families, Hendrick Dunn & Camdyn Rehm</i>
Kathy Smith (& All Her Friends that Miss Her So)	<i>In Memory of My Friend, Janie</i>
Bill & Sherrill Witt	<i>In Memory of Arch & Shirley Duncan In Memory of William & Mary Witt In Memory of the MacIntosh Family In Memory of Albert, Agnes & Edward Peart In Memory of William & Edna Bishop In Honor of the People of Ukraine</i>
Jill Zedan	<i>In Memory of Bobby, Joanie, Jack & TZ</i>

