



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***

*"In the end,
nothing we
say or do in
this lifetime
will matter as
much as the
way we have
loved one
another."
-- Daphne Rose
Kingma*



"Call No One Profane"

- Acts 11:1-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 15th, 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 of Easter – May 15th, 2022

Meditation Music

“People who truly love one another are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another.”

-- Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)

Taizé Community

*Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

Bearing the Light of Peace / Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: We gather in this sacred and holy space,

People: To become the people whose lives proclaim the Risen Christ.

Leader: We gather after having traveled from our broken spaces,

People: To experience the reviving love of the Risen Christ.

Leader: We gather as one, even though we are diverse and unique.

People: We gather as one, because God calls each and every one of us “My Beloved.”

*** Hymn of Praise**

Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)

Taizé Community

Congregational Refrain:



Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love, live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

- (Soloist)
1. *Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together.*
 2. *May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives.*
 3. *Let us love one another as God has loved us.*
 4. *Let us be one in love together in the one bread of Christ.*
 5. *The love of God in Jesus Christ bears eternal joy.*

(Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France;
published in North America by GIA Publications, Inc.)

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

God of love and unity, open our hearts and our lives so we may receive your Spirit. Help us to see beyond the differences that separate us. Help us to see beyond the limitations that keep us apart. We invoke your Spirit of Love through the Risen Christ so we may become the church of hope that welcomes an entire community, celebrating our diversity.

*** Prayer of Reflection and Growth: [UNISON]**

God of awe and harmony, we were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the way we love becomes conditional. What events have distorted our view of Divine Love? How can we return to a simple but radical way of loving? Transform our hearts as we work to understand one another, creating an earth which reflects God's heaven. Amen.

*** Assurance of Grace**

*** 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 11:1-18 (NRSV)
Second Reading John 13:33-35 (NRSV)
Continuing Testament By Jim Rice, editor of ***Sojourners***

Youth Anthem

Here Are Our Hearts Joyful Noise

Drake/Jennings/Debick

*Refrain: Here are our hearts. Here are our hands.
Here are our lives. Use them as You can.*

Show us those who hurt. Show us those in need.

Show us how to serve. Teach us how to see.

Teach us to love you, O God, with all our heart, with all our soul and mind.

*And likewise teach us to love our neighbor as ourselves,
so we seek the good in everyone we find. (Refrain)*



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

In Perfect Charity

DeBruyn

O most high and glorious God, cast your light into the darkness of my heart.

Give me right faith, and certain hope, and perfect, perfect charity.

Give me true insight, Lord, and wisdom,

that I may always live within your ever holy will.

Lord, may your light within me burn, shining out in perfect charity.

O most high and glorious God, open wide the door that leads me to your love.

Give me your firm, yet gentle strength; may I live that perfect charity.

Lord, may your peace be ever in me,

that I may always seek to serve your children here on earth;

That I may find my home with you, and live in perfect charity.

Then most high and thankful praise I will sing unto the glory of your name:

Creator, Son, and Spirit bright, Living Presence, Perfect Charity.

Praise to the Love that shines in splendor,

that lights the pathways of my heart, and brings me close to you.

O Holy One, invite me in, where you live in perfect charity.

(Music: © 1982, Randall DeBruyn, b. 1947; words: Vs. 1: Based on prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226;
Vss. 2, 3: Randall DeBruyn)

Sermon

Can You Spare Some Change?

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection: ***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*** #454, v. 1-3

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Refrain: In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. **(Refrain)**

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. **(Refrain)**

(Music and Words: African American spiritual; arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992)

The Church at Prayer

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 of Our Offerings: [UNISON]

God, we have asked that you be at the center of our lives, homes and community, guiding us to perfect unity. We also ask that you be at the center of our gifts, which we offer to you. Empower these gifts so they may heal a broken heart, mend a broken home, and unite a broken community. We dedicate these gifts to your mission, and we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

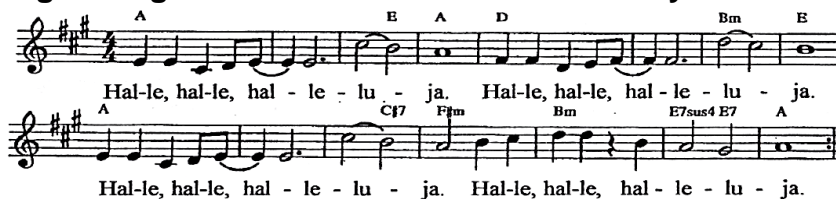
*Hymn of Departure *In Christ There Is No East or West*

#394

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew or Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

(African American melody; arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939; words: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.;
St. 3: Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte



† Benediction (Pastor John)

Postlude

Pastoral Dance from "Springtime"
Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1740); arr. P. Gouin

Announcements

BIRTHDAYS - Other May birthdays that were missing from this month's ***Pillar*** are: Robin Coyer on 5/5 and Lindsey Maier on 5/7. To ensure that your birthday isn't missed, please complete that information in your Breeze profile, or contact the office for assistance

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are dedicated by Carol Miller and Pat Rehm, in memory of Pat's cousin, Robert Harvey.

BUTTERFLIES - Katzfly is enjoying luxurious living conditions with Carol & Pat, and it sent the word out to a lot of homeless caterpillar friends about the wonderful adoption opportunities at BUCC. New groups arrived this week and they will be looking for homes today (5/15) and next Sunday (5/22). These caterpillars will be in Pilgrim Hall, after Sunday services, looking for adoptive homes. Stewardship will have kits with complete instructions, and everything needed to help them become butterflies for release on Pentecost Sunday.

This week Rose Kaval is sharing a reflection about caterpillars and butterflies that she wrote in her twenties. She says "One day, after some difficult times, it just came to me. I submitted it and it was subsequently published in a Spiritual Journal. To me it says there is always hope in spiritual transformation."

CLEVELAND FOOD BANK – Our Christian Education Ministry (CE) made mugs and candle holders for the Lenten project this year. They raised \$300.95, which has been donated to the Cleveland Food Bank. Thanks to our kids for their hard work, and to all who generously supported their efforts!

POSTCARDS IN PILGRIM HALL - On June 1st, we'll be gathering in Pilgrim Hall from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, to write postcards to Ohio legislators, urging them to vote "no" on House Bill 616. If you are not familiar with this bill, you can review the content and summary here: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/134/hb616>.

You should have received an email last week containing more details, including the link to the registration form. If you didn't get that email, have other questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Heidi Spangler or call the church office.

Thanks, The Membership Ministry

Readings

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18 (NRSV)

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Readings

Second Reading

John 13:33-35 (NRSV)

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Continuing Testament – By Jim Rice, editor of *Sojourners*

There are many ways to identify members of a group or organization. Most of these make use of material signs: a uniform or item of clothing; an ornament, style of hair, or marking of the skin. In today's gospel reading, the beginning of Jesus' farewell address, he gave his followers a different kind of way by which they would be known - their love for one another. They would be known not by the sign of the fish, or even the cross, but by the fruit of their conversion.

This was not an optional mode of behavior. Jesus repeats the command to love one another three times, first saying what it is ("a new commandment"), then how to love ("as I have loved you"), and finally noting that this love would stand as the trademark, the signifier, of his disciples.

Special Thanks:

May 15, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Kathy Smith
Lay Reader: Carol Miller
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt
Clean Up: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt

May 22, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Carole Snider
Snack: Kathy Ford
Leroy Ford
Set Up/Serve: Kathy Ford
Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Leroy Ford
Sue Stenzel

