



# 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*

*"Whoever  
undertakes to set  
themselves up  
as a judge  
of Truth  
and Knowledge  
is shipwrecked  
by the laughter  
of the gods.  
– Albert Einstein*



**Trinity Sunday, June 12<sup>th</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 – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**



Trinity Sunday – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Prelude/Gathering Music    *Perpetual Praise!*    McLeod**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward**

—————  
“God is a verb.” – Buckminster Fuller  
—————

***Gathering in God’s Presence***

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

**\* Call to Worship:**

One: Wisdom calls and understanding speaks.

**Many: Majestic God, we recognize your voice.**

One: Creation declares your glory and humanity marvels at your care.

**Many: Merciful God, we rejoice at your works.**

One: Peace, endurance, character, and hope are gifts.

**Many: Mysterious God, we receive your love in thanksgiving.**

**\* Hymn of Praise:                    *Creator God, Creating Still***

#278

1. Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,  
Create a new humanity to meet the present need.
2. Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace,  
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a holy place.
3. Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day,  
Empower us now to do your will. Correct us when we stray.
4. Great Triune God, for this new day we need your presence still.  
Create, redeem, sustain us now to do your work and will.

(Music: William Croft, 1708; words: Jane Parker Huber, 1977; rev. 1993)

### \* Invocation: [UNISON]

God our Potter, God who becomes clay, God who shapes us in the fire, we are made new in your presence. We come seeking your wisdom, crying out our concerns, needing your peace. Use this time to form us as community, connected through your breath, life, and hope that propels us as your body in the world. Amen.

## **\* Prayer for Transformation and New Life:**

One: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we confess that we do not always heed the wisdom you impart. We turn toward other marks and means of validation rather than toward you. We remain in awe of our own creation while devouring and decimating yours. Continue to call us, we pray, and to surprise and delight us at your magnificence and majesty. May we always be at awe at your glory and humbled by your nearness. Let our character be shaped toward hope and reflect your peace.

## **\* Words 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 Proverbs 8:1–7, 19–31 (The Message translation)

## Second Reading John 1:1-5, 14, 18 (The Voice translation)

**Continuing Testament** From *The Shack*, by William Paul Young



**Musical Offering:** *O God in Heaven* Maquiso (Philippines)  
Dave Debick, solo; with Percussion Group

1. *O God in heaven, grant to your children mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing, Grace to invite us, peace to unite us--O God in heaven, author of love.*
2. *Jesus Redeemer, help us remember your pain and passion, your resurrection, Your call to follow, your love tomorrow--Jesus Redeemer, savior and friend.*
3. *Spirit unending, give us your blessing: strength for the weary, help for the needy, Hope for the scornful, peace for the mournful--Spirit unending, comfort and guide.*
4. *O God in heaven, Jesus Redeemer, Spirit unending, watch o'er your people; help us to care for your blessed creation, and keep it pure for our children's children.*  
(Music and Words: Elena G. Maquiso, 1961; transl. D. T. Niles, 1964; alt.)

**Sermon** *Creating, Redeeming, Sanctifying* Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection:** *If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers*  
Traditional English melody

1. If we just talk of thoughts and prayers  
And don't live out a faith that dares,  
And don't take on the ways of death,  
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.
2. If we just dream of what could be  
And do not build community,  
And do not seek to change our ways,  
Our dreams of change are false displays.
3. If we just sing of doing good  
And don't walk through our neighborhood  
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,  
Our talk of good is simply vain.
4. God, may our prayers and dreams and songs  
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs--  
That works for peace and justice, too,  
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.  
(Words: Copyright © 2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

## ***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: [UNISON]**

...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***

#### **Invitation to Generosity: (Pastor John)**

##### **\* 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 and Thanksgiving: [UNISON]**

Generous, Abundant, and Precious God, bless our offerings of presence, ability, and resources as we participate as your co-creators.

## Going with God's Love

### \*Hymn of Departure

### Holy, Holy, Holy

#277, v. 1-3

1. Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!  
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,  
From the beginning, God eternally.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,  
Though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,  
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

(Music: John B. Dykes, 1861; words: Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.)



## Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

### \* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times)** **Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

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

### Worship Our God

Traditional melody (Sri Lanka)

Have a Great Week!

## Announcements

**TODAY IS THE DAY**



After today's service, we will celebrate summer in Pilgrim Hall with our annual Strawberry Social. Join us for refreshments and, if you'd like, participate in a "jam session", by making your own strawberry jam. So please join us downstairs after the service, and bring your appetite!

**FATHERS' DAY** – Next Sunday (6/19), we will have a special guests from El Salvador! Lupita and her dad, Jorge, will join us after the service, for a video chat in Pilgrim Hall.

Jorge was one of the people I worked with in El Salvador - initiated into the MS-13 gang at age seven, he eventually turned his life around and became the first in his family to graduate from high school. Now his daughter Lupita (nickname for "Guadalupe"), is on track to become the first in their family to graduate from college! The OCWM ministry is inviting anyone who is able, to please make a contribution towards covering her college tuition, which is \$1,360 per year. Your gift would be a contribution towards both the current and future generations of this family!

Let's gather on Father's Day to get to know them in a cross-cultural, informal dialogue. Let's empower women globally through education. – Rev. John



**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

#### Proverbs 8:1–7, 19–31 (The Message translation)

Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling? Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice? She's taken her stand at First and Main, at the busiest intersection. Right in the city square, where the traffic is thickest, she shouts,

"You - I'm talking to all of you, everyone out here on the streets! Listen, you idiots - learn good sense! You blockheads - shape up! Don't miss a word of this - I'm telling you how to live well, I'm telling you how to live at your best. My mouth chews and savors and relishes truth - I can't stand the taste of evil!"

You can find me on Righteous Road - that's where I walk - at the intersection of Justice Avenue, handing out life to those who love me, filling their arms with life - armloads of life!

GOD sovereignly made me - the first, the basic - before anything else. I was brought into being a long time ago, well before Earth got its start. I arrived on the scene before Ocean, yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes. Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape, I was already there, newborn; long before GOD stretched out Earth's Horizons, and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather, and set Sky firmly in place, I was there.

When God mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean, built the vast vault of Heaven, and installed the fountains that fed Ocean, when God drew a boundary for Sea, posted a sign that said NO TRESPASSING, and then staked out Earth's Foundations, I was right there, making sure everything fit. Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause, always enjoying God's company, delighted with the world of things and creatures, happily celebrating the human family."

### Second Reading

#### John 1:1-5, 14, 18 (The Voice translation – adapted for inclusive language)

Before time itself was measured, the Voice was speaking. The Voice was and is God. This celestial Word remained ever present with the Creator; this Voice shaped the entire cosmos. Immersed in the practice of creating, giving birth to all that exists.

This breath filled all things with a living, breathing light - a light that thrives in the depths of darkness, blazes through murky bottoms. It cannot, it will not be quenched.

The Voice took on flesh and became human and chose to live alongside us. We have heard this Voice - radiant in the magnificence a Parent feels for an only child - evidenced in the perfect balance of grace and truth.

God, unseen until now, is revealed in this Voice, Jesus, God's Son, who has come straight from the Heart of God.

## Readings

### Continuing Testament – from *The Shack*, by William Paul Young

(Excerpts from p. 88,89, 93 & 95, edited for clarity and brevity.)

“Then...” Mack was suddenly staggered by his own realization. “Then, you are...?”

[The Middle Eastern looking man finished his question,] “Jesus? Yes. And you may call me that if you like. After all, it has become my common name. My mother called me Yeshua...”

Emotion swept over [Mack] as his mind attempted desperately to catch up with all the information. Just as he was about to crumple to his knees, the Asian woman stepped closer and deflected his attention. “And I am Sarayu,” she said as she tilted her head in a slight bow and smiled. “Keeper of the gardens, among other things.” Thoughts tumbled over themselves as Mack struggled to figure out what to do...

Since there were three of them, maybe this was a Trinity sort of thing. But two women and a man and none of them white? Then again, why had he naturally assumed that God would be white? He knew his mind was rambling, so he focused on the one question he most wanted answered. “Then,” Mack struggled to ask, “which one of you is God?”

“I am,” said all three in unison.

None of his old seminary training was helping in the least. He was at a sudden loss for words and his million questions had all seemed to abandon him.... “You must know,” he said to the large black woman, “calling you ‘Papa’ is a bit of a stretch for me.”

“Oh, really?” She looked at him in mock surprise. ... She chuckled. “But tell me, why do you think it’s hard for you? Is it because it’s too familiar for you, or maybe because I am showing myself as a woman, a mother, or—”

“No small issue there,” Mack interrupted with an awkward chuckle.

“Or maybe it’s because of the failures of your own papa?”

Mack gasped involuntarily. He wasn’t used to having deep secrets surface so quickly and openly...

She again picked up the wooden spoon, which was dripping with some sort of batter. “Mackenzie, I am neither male nor female, even though both genders are derived from my nature. If I choose to appear to you as a man or a woman, it’s because I love you. For me to appear to you as a woman and suggest that you call me ‘Papa’ is simply to mix metaphors, to help you keep from falling so easily back into your religious conditioning.” She leaned forward as if to share a secret. “To reveal myself to you as a very large, white grandfather figure with flowing beard, like Gandalf, would simply reinforce your religious stereotypes, and this weekend is not about reinforcing your religious stereotypes.”

Mack almost laughed out loud and wanted to say, “You think? I’m over here barely believing that I’m not stark-raving mad!” Instead, he focused on what she had just said and regained his composure. He believed, in his head at least, that God was Spirit, neither male nor female, but in spite of that, he was embarrassed to admit to himself that all his visuals for God were very white and very male.

# Special Thanks:

## June 12, 2022

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Dave Bernard  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Jon Thompson  
**Greeter:** Caroline & Bob  
Chandler  
**Nursery:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
**Acolyte:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Peace Candle:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers** Julie Bernard  
**Snack:** Strawberry Social  
**Set Up/Serve:** Sue & Cliff Stenzel  
**Clean Up:** Sue Stenzel  
**Volunteer Needed**

## June 19, 2022

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
**Volunteer Needed**  
**Lay Reader:** Paul Kuzmins  
**Greeters:** Jon Thompson  
**Nursery:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Peace Candle:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** Janet Renovetz  
**Set Up/Serve:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Volunteer Needed**  
**Clean Up:** Bob Chandler  
Caroline Chandler

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_