



# 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*

“Without justice  
and love,  
peace will  
always be a  
great illusion.”

- Dom Helder  
Camara



**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, July 24<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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

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

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Prelude/Gathering Music**   Loving Only You, O Christ   Latin America (20th century)

## Welcome & Announcements

### Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

## Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

### \* Call to Worship:

Leader: We come abounding in thanksgiving:

**People: For in Christ we find in all fullness the holiness, the justice, the hope of God.**

Leader: We come abounding in thanksgiving:

**People: To feel God’s life in us, flowing through our roots in Christ and establishing our faith.**

Leader: We come abounding in thanksgiving:

**People: To celebrate the mystery of God-with-us: Christ, who lives fully in us and in whom we fully live.**

All: Let us welcome the One who was sent to make us alive in the fullness of God. Amen.

### \* Hymn of Praise:

### Sweet Hour of Prayer

#505

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.  
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for your return!  
With them I hasten to the place where I would know my Savior's face, And gladly take my station there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my petition bear to One whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, believe God's word, and trust God's grace, I'll cast away my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

(Music: William B. Bradbury, 1861; words: William Walford, 1845; alt.)

**\* Invocation: [UNISON]**

God, we know you will come to us and give us what is good. Let your glory till the landscape of our hearts so that it will yield an increase of love for you. Speak peace to us, your faithful, and to all who yearn for you. Like Hosea of old, help us to be willing to do as you ask, that we may rejoice to be children of the living God. For we know that as we ask, it will be given and as we knock, the door will be opened to us. Come, bring your goodness to us your children. Amen.

**\* Words of Grace:** (Rev. 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**      **Hosea 1:2-4, 6-10 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**Gospel Reading**      **Luke 11:1-13 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament** - By Walter Brueggemann



### ***Time with Young Worshippers***



**Musical Offering: *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)***

Myrin/Redman

Craig Ramsey, vocal and guitar

1. *The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when evening comes.*

*Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship God's holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.*

2. *You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger; Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.  
(Refrain)*

3. *And on that day when my strength is failing; the end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending ten thousand years, and then forevermore!  
(Refrain)*

**Sermon:**

***The Weirdest Prophet***

Rev. John King

**Hymn of Reflection:**

***Hosea***

Norbet

Rev. John King, vocalist

1. Come back to me with all your heart. don't let fear keep us apart.  
Trees do bend 'though straight and tall; so must we to others' call.

*Refrain: Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.*

2. The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak.

*Integrity and justice, with tenderness you shall know. (Refrain)*

3. You shall sleep secure with peace; faithfulness will be your joy. (Refrain)

*(Music: Gregory Norbet, 1972; words based on the book of Hosea;*

*Copyright © 1972, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc.)*

## ***The Church at Prayer***

The family and friends of Anna Mary Fisher, the family and friends of Edie O'Donnell, Dorie Gabor, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, George Snider, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Betty Kaul, 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 Share:** (Rev. 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: [UNISON]**

**Thank you, God, for the opportunity to do your will and to co-create with you on earth as in heaven. Take these gifts we bring for your purposes. Thy Kingdom Come.....**

## ***Going with God's Love***

**\*Hymn of Departure                    Renew Your Church                    #311, v. 1, 3 & 4**

1. Renew your church, its ministries restore: both to serve and adore.  
Make us again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.  
'Mid somber shadows of the night where greed and hatred spread their blight,  
    O send us forth with power endued. Help us, God, be renewed.
3. Teach us to pray, for you are ever near; your still voice let us hear.  
Our souls are restless till they rest in you; this is life, full and true.  
Before your presence keep us still that we may find for us your will  
    And seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God, how to pray.
4. Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all- humankind!  
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate; leave us not to our fate.  
As you have loved and given your life to end hostility and strife,  
Your grace we must be mindful of: Teach us, God, how to love.  
(Music: Traditional English melody; words: Kenneth L. Cober, 1960; 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.

## † Benediction (Rev. John)

## **Postlude:** O Christians, Haste Walch



## **Announcements**

**NURSERY** - If you know in advance that you will be bringing nursery age children (ages 0-3) or will be bringing a guest with children to church and would like to drop them off in the nursery, please contact the church office at 440-526-4364 or Evie Novak at 440-479-9743. This is necessary so that we may arrange for a volunteer attendant to be available. If you are unable to provide notice, please check with our Head Usher before the service (can be found in the Narthex at the back of the church), and they will enlist a volunteer if one is available. If no one is available, you are welcome to accompany your child in the nursery. If you would like to serve as an as-needed volunteer, please let Evie know.

**THE OPERA IS COMING TO BUCC!** - On August 6, the premier of a locally produced oratorio/opera, "Coming Home", will be performed in the sanctuary. It's the true story of Jim Stulz's journey from teaching high school to becoming one of the moral leaders of San Francisco's gay community. Jim was instrumental in establishing both a "Gays and Grays" ministry and America's first residential AIDS hospice, called "Coming Home". It's an uplifting story about being the best one can be "under the circumstances" and concludes with an audience sing along! Afterwards, there will be a question/answer period with the work's principal lyricist. The performance begins at 4 pm, and free-will donations will be used to defray production costs, with any excess revenue going to BUCC's LGBTQIA+ ministries.



**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

#### Hosea 1:2-4, 6-10 (The Inclusive Bible)

When YHWH first spoke to Hosea, YHWH said: "Go! Marry a prostitute and beget children of prostitution! For the land is guilty of the most hideous kind of prostitution by forsaking YHWH."

So Hosea married Gomer who conceived and bore a son. Then God said to Hosea, "Name him "Jezreel," for soon I will take my revenge on the house of Jeru for the slaughter at Jezreel, and I will destroy the dominion of Israel."

Then Gomer conceived again and bore a daughter. God said to Hosea, "Name her Lo-ruhamah - 'No Compassion' - for I will no longer hold dear the house of Israel. But I will hold dear the house of Judah and will rescue them - not by the bow or by the sword or by battle or by horses or riders, but by YHWH their God."

Once Gomer had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived again, and bore another son. God said: "Name him Lo-ammi - 'Not my People' - for you are not my people and I will not be your God. Yet the people of Israel will be as numerous as the sands of the seashore that can neither be measured nor counted. And one day, instead of it being said of them 'You are not my people,' it will be said, 'You are the children of the living God.' "

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 11:1-13 (NRSV)

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say, 'Abba God, hallowed be your Name! May your reign come. Give us today tomorrow's bread. Forgive us our sins, for we too forgive everyone who sins against us; and don't let us be subjected to the test.' "

Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, 'Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.' Then your neighbor says, 'Leave me alone. The door is already locked, and the children and I are in bed. I can't get up to look after your needs.' I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need."

*(continued)*

## Readings

### Gospel Reading (continued)

“That’s why I tell you, keep asking and you’ll receive; keep looking and you’ll find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?”

### Continuing Testament - Excerpts from “The Earth Awakens: Reading Hosea in the age of climate change”\*

The poetic imagery of Hosea presents God as an offended husband and Israel as an offending wife. Such imagery is deeply problematic for us in our own gender-aware context. It is, nevertheless, the text we are given in Hosea. It is part of our interpretive responsibility and freedom to see how such ancient imagery might play in our own imagination when we move the poem from that ancient context to our own.

That divine command that Hosea obeyed caused him to experience, exhibit, and give voice to the pathos (suffering love) in his own life. He came to understand by his humiliating social experience that life consists not in stern rule-keeping but in the exercise of mercy and compassion that moves well beyond rules.

In Hosea, the judgement that follows the word “therefore” is astonishing. The earth shrivels and dries up and can no longer sustain life. Who would have known that violation of the Ten Commandments would lead to the failure of creation? Well, Hosea would know that! The human choices, so Hosea attests, have not been good; for that reason the future of creation cannot be good either. It is as though the poet traces inescapable outcomes and consequences of such violations.

We now hear Hosea’s poetic utterance at a great chronological, cultural distance. We read it in a public context that evokes a dispute about “protecting the environment” and “maintaining a growth economy.” We read it in the context of a supposed scientific dispute about global warming, though the scientific evidence for global warming is not much disputed any more.

We may now ponder the poetic “therefore.” We may do so with a grain of salt about “supernatural” agency. We do not believe that God would swoop in and punish. Nor did Hosea! But Hosea did believe that there is a mysterious presence of holiness that sets limits on human choices that violate God’s purposes only at great cost.

\*Brueggemann, W. (2016, January). The Earth Awakens: Reading Hosea in the age of climate change. *Sojourners*, January 2016.

## Special Thanks:

July 24, 2022

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Head Usher:</b>   | Jill Zedan                             |
| <b>Ushers:</b>       | Dave Bernard<br>Carole Snider          |
| <b>Lay Reader:</b>   | Jon Thompson                           |
| <b>Greeter:</b>      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>                |
| <b>Nursery:</b>      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>                |
| <b>Counters:</b>     | Marge Culver<br>Janet Renovetz         |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>                |
| <b>Peace Candle:</b> | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>                |
| <b>A/V Team:</b>     | Betsey Wilson                          |
| <b>Flowers:</b>      | Carole Snider                          |
| <b>Set Up/Serve:</b> | Sue Stenzel<br>Cliff Stenzel           |
| <b>Clean Up:</b>     | Sue Stenzel<br><b>Volunteer Needed</b> |

July 31, 2022

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Head Usher:</b>   | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>Ushers:</b>       | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
|                      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>Lay Reader:</b>   | Jim Duffy               |
| <b>Greeters:</b>     | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>Nursery:</b>      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>Counters:</b>     | Marge Culver            |
|                      | Sue Stenzel             |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>Peace Candle:</b> | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>A/V Team:</b>     | Tim Wallis              |
| <b>Flowers:</b>      | Janet Renovetz          |
| <b>Set Up/Serve:</b> | Carole Snider           |
|                      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| <b>Clean Up:</b>     | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
|                      | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |

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