



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*

“Divine Love,
the heart of hearts,
abounds in every
grain of being,
from atom’s gleam
to starry sky,
from darkest pain
to brightest joy.
Unceasing love
kindles life—
a royal promise
sealed with the kiss
of peace.”

~ Hildegard of Bingen,
(1098- 1179)



Eugène Burnand, *The Dishonest Steward*

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 18th, 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!

15th Sunday after Pentecost – September 18th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Call to Prayer

Phil Mark

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"I want to know how God created this world. I'm not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know [God's] thoughts; the rest are just details."

~ Albert Einstein 1925

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:**

One: Though our hearts may be grieving, we come risking joy:

All: God is our help.

One: Though we are hurting, we are here seeking hope:

All: God soothes our discomfort.

One: Though our lives are often difficult, we gather for strength:

All: God restores our souls and cares for us; God calms our anguish and dries our tears. Let us call on the Holy One, and rejoice in God, ever our source of solace in our daily journey, ever our comforter in times of trial. Amen.

*** Hymn of Praise:**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

#558, v. 1-3

1. O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth,
God, who wrought creation's splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.

2. When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power displayed,
Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.

3. You have set us in communion with the wonders of your hand,
Made us fly with eagle pinion, pilgrims over sea and land.
Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show.
Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow.

(Music: Traditional Dutch melody, arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906; words: Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]**

God of our hearts, you are our Healer when we are wounded; You challenge us to growth, you bring us peace. Your presence is pleasing to us and we welcome you. Together in your sanctuary we rejoice in your embrace and offer you our boundless praise - Amen!

* **Pastoral Assurance** (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 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading Luke 16:1-13 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament By Robert J. Szczzerba



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem

Freedom Song

Nockels

I was lost, Your mercy found me, called me from darkness, now I can see.

I could not make it all the way to You; I thank You, Lord, You made it all the way to me.

*Refrain: I will sing, my God, of Your great love, Telling of the One Who has saved my soul,
I will shout it out to the mountaintops, that You're my freedom song, You're my freedom song,
Singin' ooh, ooh, You are my freedom song.*

You turned my mourning into dancing, lifted my sorrow, joy filled my soul.

When I grow weary, Your strength renews me; I thank You, Lord,

Your love never lets me go. (Refrain)

Jesus, my Savior, my rock, my Redeemer, You are my Lord, You're my all.

Jesus, my Savior, my hope and my healer, You are my freedom song. (Refrain)

(Words and Music by Christy Nockels, 2015)

Sermon:

Wiliness as Virtue

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection:

City of God

Schutte

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

**CHORUS: Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!**

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for God's people to set their hearts free. **(Chorus)**

3. God is light; in God there is no darkness.
Let us walk in the Light, God's children, one and all.
O comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth. **(Chorus)**

The Church at Prayer

Dorie Gabor, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, 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

Call to Offering: (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]**

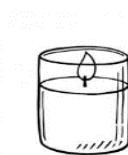
God, as your church we reflect your hopes for humanity. We offer these gifts and ask you to guide us to wise and loving management of all we are given in order to further your work in our midst.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure *Praise the Source of Faith and Learning* #411**
(hymn tune HYFRYDOL)

1. Praise the Source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray:
2. God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.
3. May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed
lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.
4. As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow
till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,
Blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,
till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.

(Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1844; arr. R. V. Williams, 1906; words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1987, 1989)



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 (Rev. John)

Postlude:

Go Out Now in Peace

Margie Annis, arr. Morales-Matos

Be *Strong* and *Courageous*

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,

For the *Lord* your *God*

Will be with you wherever you go.

~ Joshua 1:9

Announcements

TODAY'S FLOWERS – “The flowers behind the altar today are in celebration of the 63rd anniversary of Caroline and Bob Chandler’s wedding.”

BILL TONEFF VISITS – Our wonderful Bill Toneff, who is 103+ years old, would love to see his friends from BUCC from time to time. We are trying to work out a visitation schedule for Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact Sherrill Witt at 216-244-6916 or sherrill@lollytrolley.com for further information and scheduling.

MUSIC MINISTRY – Practices are every Thursday evening, and the schedule is as follows:

4:30-5pm: **Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble**

5:30-6pm: **Joyful Noise***

7-8:15pm: **Adult Choir**

***Joyful Noise - For those who cannot attend on Thursdays at 5:30, Dave will offer practice during coffee hour.**

Practices for Instrumentalists and the Percussion Group will be scheduled on an as-needed basis, and usually occur on Sunday morning before the service. Please consider participating in one of these groups this fall. It's fun, relaxing, and spiritually rewarding. Contact Dave D. with any questions.

“PORTRAITS OF HOMELESSNESS” – Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brecksville is hosting events to raise awareness of the unhoused population in NE Ohio. In conjunction with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, there will be a photography exhibit, a featured speaker and LMM’s *Metro45 Food Truck* making an appearance! In honor of “Socktober”, they are asking attendees to bring a new pair of socks to donate to LMM’s Men’s Shelter in Cleveland. This event begins on Sunday, October 2nd, and runs through the 9th. More details are posted on the bulletin board in our lobby – please check there for the schedule of events.

ADVENT BOOK – We are moving up the BUCC Advent Book submission date this year to OCTOBER 31. See one of the ushers for the clipboard with the list of scriptures/dates. Meanwhile, please be on the alert for examples of God’s wonder, and jot down your thoughts. Then submit your reflections/devotion to Anne at buccoffice23@gmail.com, as soon as the moment strikes - we look forward to reading your contribution!

Readings

First Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NRSV)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all - this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13 (NRSV)

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Readings

Continuing Testament - Szczerba, Robert J. *Forbes*, Jan. 2015.

1876: "The Americans have need of the telephone, but we do not. We have plenty of messenger boys." – William Preece, British Post Office

1876: "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication." – William Orton, President of Western Union

1889: "Fooling around with alternating current (AC) is just a waste of time. Nobody will use it, ever." – Thomas Edison

1903: "The horse is here to stay but the automobile is only a novelty - a fad."
-- President of the Michigan Savings Bank advising Henry Ford's lawyer, Horace Rackham, not to invest in the Ford Motor Company

1921: "The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to no one in particular?" – David Sarnoff, founder of RCA

1946: "Television won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night."
– Darryl Zanuck, 20th Century Fox

1955: "Nuclear powered vacuum cleaners will probably be a reality within 10 years."
-- Alex Lewyt, President of the Lewyt Vacuum Cleaner Company

1966: "Remote shopping, while entirely feasible, will flop." – *TIME* magazine

1981: "Cellular phones will absolutely not replace local wire systems."
– Marty Cooper, inventor

1995: "I predict the Internet will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse." – Robert Metcalfe, founder of 3Com

2006: "Everyone's always asking me when Apple will come out with a cell phone. My answer is, 'Probably never.' " – David Pogue, *The New York Times*

2007: "There's no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share." – Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO

Special Thanks:

September 18, 2022

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: Jonathan Cook
Evelyn Seager

Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt

Greeter: Bill Witt

Nursery: *Volunteer Needed*

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

Acolyte: Arthur Cook

Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*

A/V Team: David Pastor

Flowers: Caroline & Bob
Chandler

Snack: Jon Thompson

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

Clean Up: Kathy Pastor
David Pastor

September 25, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley

Ushers: *Volunteer Needed*
Evelyn Seager

Lay Reader: Rose Kaval

Greeter: Dave Bernard

Nursery: *Volunteer Needed*

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*

Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*

A/V Team: Jim Duffy

Flowers: Dot Bailey

Snack: *Volunteer Needed*

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

Clean Up: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

Notes: _____