



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*

“Loving God,
Form in me a
new season
Revealing a
beauty hidden
Until the right
time,
Fashioning a
fire of wisdom
Fed by
yesterday's
growth
When
everything was
green.”

~ Rev. David Long
Higgins

**“Staying with it –
that's what is
required.**

**Stay with it
to the end.**

**You won't be sorry;
you'll be saved.”**

- Luke 21:19

November 13th, 2022 • 10:00 AM
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor

• 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!

November 13, 2022 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude/Gathering Music

All My Days

Schutte

You have blessed me with good things and plenty and surrounded my table with friends.

Their love and their laughter enrich me; together we sing your praise.

(Lyrics: Jim Murray; Copyright © 1971 by Daniel L. Schutte and James G. Murray)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead
has never watched them dancing on a windy day." ~ Shira Tamir

Gathering in God's Presence

* Please Stand as you are able.

* Call to Worship:

One: Divine Parent, you feel what we feel.

Many: Our joys and our pains are yours too.

One: Divine Healer, you delight in our wholeness.

Many: You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.

One: Giver of life, you are able to renew us

Many: We open ourselves to you, have your way within us.

Hymn of Praise

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

#397

1. Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.

With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.

2. Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.

Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

3. Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

(Music: Melody from *The Christian Lyre*, 1831; words: Roger Powell, 1948; alt.)

* Invocation [Unison]

Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to you any time. You have made it possible for us to come as we are, however we are. We rejoice in knowing that you walk with us whether the road is rough or smooth. You are steadfast. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so that we may be a balm when none can be found. Amen.

* Words of Grace (Pastor Only)

Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa

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 *Isaiah 65:17-25 (The Message)*

Gospel Reading *Luke 21:5-19 (The Message)*

Continuing Testament By Kate Klonowski

Time With Young Worshippers

Anthem

Thanks Be to God

Arr. Curry

Betsey Wilson, flute

1. *There is a hand whose touch creates all beauty;
the snow-capped height, the river's quiet flow;
And that same hand, which fashioned all the universe,
calms troubled hearts and soothes the wounded soul.*

*Refrain: Thanks be to God whose mercy knows no measure,
whose righteous way God's wondrous works applaud, whose loving kindness bears our every
weakness; For such a sure and steadfast love, thanks be to God.*

2. *Give thanks to God for faithful friends and family,
those near and far whose lives define our own;
And praise God's goodness past all comprehension.
God is our source, our pleasure, and our home. (Refrain)*

3. *There is a Shepherd for each valley's shadow; Unfathomed Grace joins every trial we meet.
Ultimate One, whose presence we most long for, to You, in gratitude, we humbly sing: (Refrain)*
(Music: Traditional Irish melody, LONDONDERRY AIR, arr. & words Sheldon Curry; Copyright © 2004 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

Hymn of Reflection***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***

#393

1. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.
2. Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

(Music: Melody by Johann G. Nägeli, c. 1768-1836; adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845;
words: John Fawcett, 1782; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Family and Friends of Lenore Harris, Friends of Bill Toneff, Suzanne Patrick, George Snider, Dorie Gabor, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Allison Colbert, Phyllis Hassler, Jeanne Cowden, Rose Kaval, David Pastor, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, 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



Hymn During Offering of Pledges

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

#565

1. God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:

 Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
 Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.

 Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
 born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
 Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
 Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

4. Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
 God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.

(Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797; words: Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.)

***The Invitation (Pastor Only)**

*** 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]**

Holy One, blessed are you, who entrust to our care and use the richness of creation. Through our tithes and offerings, we return to you a portion of that which you have given us. May they be a means of serving you in the mission to which you have called us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Communion Hymn: *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup* #788

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

(Music: Jacques Berthier, 1983; words: The Taizé Community, 1983)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]**

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* #82

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

2. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

(Music: Traditional Welsh melody; words: Jaroslav J. Vajda. 1983, 1990; 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

Postlude

Fugue in C Major

Buxtehude

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

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS . . .

TODAY IS THE DAY

STEWARSHIP SUNDAY TURKEY DINNER

Can you smell the turkeys roasting? Today is the Stewardship Sunday Turkey Dinner! Come downstairs after the service and join us to celebrate. All are welcome and don't worry if you didn't bring anything - there will be more than enough to share!



HANGING OF THE GREENS - Please join us after church next **Sunday, November 20th**, for the annual Hanging of The Greens. We'll put up the tree, hang the garland, and set up all the other Christmas decorations, as we prepare for the Advent season. Pizza will be provided - bring the whole family- it's a lot of fun!

MEMORIAL FOR BILL TONEFF - There will be a memorial service in the sanctuary for Bill on Saturday, December 3rd, at 1:00 pm. All are welcome!

SNOW HERDING – It's that time of year again when the Facilities Ministry is looking for "snow herders" to attack the winter snows. Please sign up through Breeze, beginning with the first Sunday after Thanksgiving (11/27). Thank you for volunteering!

Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25 (The Message)

“This is the Message from the Eternal One: Pay close attention now: I’m creating new heavens and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I’m creating: I’ll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I’ll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people: No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish; no more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don’t enjoy a full lifetime; one-hundredth birthdays will be considered normal - anything less will seem like a cheat.

They’ll build houses and move in. They’ll plant fields and eat what they grow. No more building a house that some outsider takes over, no more planting fields that some enemy confiscates, for my people will be as long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work. They won’t work and have nothing come of it, they won’t have children snatched out from under them. For they themselves are plantings blessed by GOD, with their children and grandchildren likewise GOD-blessed. Before they call out, I’ll answer. Before they’ve finished speaking, I’ll have heard.

Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow, lion and ox eat straw from the same trough. Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill anywhere on my Holy Mountain,” says GOD.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19 (The Message)

One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendor of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, “All this you’re admiring so much - the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble.”

They asked him, “Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it’s about to take place?”

He said, “Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, ‘I’m the One,’ or, ‘The end is near.’ Don’t fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don’t panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end.”

He went on, “Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You’ll think at times that the very sky is falling.”

(continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

“But before any of this happens, they’ll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You’ll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I’ll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters.”

“You’ll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There’s no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul - even the hairs of your head! - is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it – that’s what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won’t be sorry; you’ll be saved.”

Contemporary Reading – By Kate Klonowski

On my way to work today, on a dismal morning where my normal commute north on the highway was delayed by the fog and accompanying traffic, I found myself taking a different path.

I had never actually seen the Sidaway Bridge (or what is left of it) with my own eyes. I missed a turn and decided to just keep heading in the general direction of campus taking the side streets. I wasn’t really paying much attention to the fact that I had turned north onto 65th from Morgan (not my usual route to begin with) and found myself at the dead end; the chasm that separates the Kinsman and North Broadway (Slavic Village) neighborhoods. I stopped and got out of my car. I was suddenly overwhelmed by a feeling of deep historic sadness. People who look like me and possibly even related to me destroyed this bridge in 1966, during the infamous Hough Riots, out of fear...out of hate...out of insanity...and out of despair. The history of this divide is rife with unrest, horror, and loss.

I don’t know what it is going to take to rebuild or repair the passage over this chasm--or any massive divide in our world. I don’t blame people who say it’s pointless to hope or even to try when, time and time again, the bridge is torched by those who fear change and stand firm against accountability for the sins of our ancestors; sins we are still committing.

Tensions are high now - tension like the unpredictable cables of a bridge on the verge of collapse - creaking ominously with countless people crossing or standing to take in the beauty of the view. Are we doomed to fall to our deaths because we are all so comfortable in the idea that if we survive the collapse, that it is likely because we are securely on the side of the bridge that affords us the illusion of safety and security we crave? Will it keep us in our tribes of like-minded & looking people with a common goal of eternal separation?

We are at a reckoning point unlike any we have ever faced. Will we choose to stand firm on either side of the abyss, or will we use that tension to our advantage - to engineer something that will give us a glimpse again of the beauty in between?

Special Thanks:

November 13, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: Arthur Cook
Peace Candle: Dorothy Cook
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Snack: POTLUCK
Set Up/Serve: Allison & Gayle Colbert
Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Kathy & Leroy Ford
Evie Novak
Clean Up: David Debick
Carol Miller & Pat Rehm
David Pastor
Joe Wilson
Sherrill & Bill Witt

November 20, 2022

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Sue Stenzel
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: 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
Snack: Jon Thompson
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteer Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**
Volunteer Needed