



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*

I have tried
drugs and a
little of
everything else,
and there is
nothing in the
world more
soul-satisfying
than having the
kingdom of God
building inside
you and
growing. ~
Johnny Cash

Reign of Christ



November 20th, 2022 • 10:00 AM
Reign of Christ Sunday

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 20, 2022
Reign of Christ Sunday

Prelude/Gathering Music *Eternal Christ, You Rule* Dan Damon, 1990
Welcome & Announcements
Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

The kingdom of God is available to you in the here and the now. But the question is whether you are available to the kingdom. ~ Thich Nhat Hanh

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Know that the Holy One is God.

People: We are God's people.

Leader: Worship the Holy One with gladness;

People: Come into God's presence with singing.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

People: Make a joyful noise!

Leader: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

People: Let us worship with thanks and joy! Let us praise God in song and word and prayer!

Hymn of Praise *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* #304

*** Invocation [Unison]**

Gracious God, we long to live in your realm, we long to know you better. So open our eyes to recognize your presence, that your kingdom may come on Earth as it is in Heaven. 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 Colossians 1:11-20 (The New Testament and Psalms:
An Inclusive Version)**

Gospel Reading Luke 23:33-43 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament By Rainer Maria Rilke



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

At His Name

Raney

At his name the mighty oceans roar. At his name the wind stands still.

At his name the eagle takes the sky. At his name the mighty nations cry.

At his name a newborn baby breathes. At his name a flower grows.

At his name the rushing rivers yield. At his name a broken heart is healed.

Refrain: *At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him the King of glory now.*

*Every voice lift him up! His power and majesty proclaim,
every knee shall bow down at his name.*

At his name the mountains stand in awe. At his name the seasons change.

At his name the sunlight floods the sky. At his name the storm clouds hurry by.

At his name our guilt is washed away. At his name our spirit's freed.

At his name the gates of heaven open wide. At his name he welcomes us inside.

Refrain + *At his name, at his name, at his name.*

Refrain + *his precious, holy name.*

(Music: Joel Raney, 2005; words: based on Philippians 2:9-11; © 2005 Hope Publishing Company)

Sermon

How to Build the City of God

Rev. John King

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.

**Refrain: 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. **(Refrain)**

3. God is light; in God there is no darkness.
Let us walk in God's light, God's children, one and all.

4. O comfort My people; make gentle your words -
Proclaim to My city the day of her birth **(Refrain)**

(Music and words by Daniel Schutte, b. 1947; Copyright 1981, Daniel Schutte & New Dawn Music)

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, 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

***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]**

God of abundance, we give these offerings of material goods as our commitment to give back to you and to care for your people. Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us. Use our offerings of money and of our lives for ministry to your purposes. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

#303



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

Pause,

pray,

proceed.



BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS . . .

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Please join us after church **TODAY** for the annual Hanging of The Greens. We are putting up the tree, hanging the garland, and setting up all the other Christmas decorations, in preparation for the Advent season. Pizza will be provided - bring the whole family - it's a lot of fun!

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!

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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - There will be a post-worship congregational meeting on Sunday, December 4. This is an annual meeting to approve a provisional budget and the slate of officers for the 2023 church year. This is NOT the final budget approval meeting -- that gathering will be held mid to late January, per usual. Please plan on attending; this is a congregationally led church, so your voice matters!

STAFF/CONGREGATION RELATIONS would like to remind everyone that if you have a request or reminder for the Church Office, there are several ways to ensure that your needs can be recognized and handled properly. Either: 1) Send an email to buccoffice23@gmail.com; or 2) Leave a note on the Church Secretary's desk. This enables us to have a written or voice record of your request and makes it easier to respond in a timely manner. It also allows Anne to enjoy her time as just a regular congregation member on Sundays.

NOTE: *We're currently experiencing technical difficulties with our voicemail system, so leaving a voice message on the phone is not available right now. The congregation will be notified when that service is up and running again.*

Attendance on Sunday, November 13th, 2022 - Adults: 71; Kids: 7; Live Stream: 12; Total: 90

Readings

First Reading

Colossians 1:11-20 (The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version)

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father-Mother, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the Saints in light. God has rescued us from the power of evil and transformed us into the dominion of God's beloved Child, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; for in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers all things have been created through Christ and for Christ.

Christ is before all things and in Christ all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that Christ might come to have first place in everything. For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through Christ God was pleased to reconcile to God's self all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:33-43 (NRSV)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Readings

Continuing Testament – From the ***Book of Hours***, by Rainer Maria Rilke

We must not portray you in king's robes,
you drifting mist that brought forth the morning.

Once again from the old paintboxes
we take the same gold for scepter and crown
that has disguised you through the ages.

Piously we produce our images of you
till they stand around you like a thousand walls.
And when our hearts would simply open,
our fervent hands hide you.

You create yourself in ever-changing shapes
that rise from the stuff of our days—
unsung, un-mourned, undescribed,
like a forest we never knew.

You are the deep innerness of all things,
the last word that can never be spoken.
To each of us you reveal yourself differently:
to the ship as a coastline, to the shore as a ship.

Special Thanks:

November 20, 2022

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Sue Stenzel
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Jon Thompson
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

November 27, 2022

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Jill Zedan
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: *Volunteer Needed*

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