



# 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*

"Darkness  
cannot drive out  
darkness,  
only light  
can do that."

– MLK



Art from Clip Art, Steve Erspamer, Liturgy Training Publications – ltp.org

**2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 • 10:00 AM**

***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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**Prelude**

***Woke Up This Morning***

African American spiritual

*"I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus, Hallelujah.  
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus, Hallelujah.  
(Words and Music: Traditional African American)"*

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

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*"We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends  
toward justice." - MLK*

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***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**\* Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 40)**

ONE: I waited patiently for GOD; who inclined and heard my cry.  
God lifts me up out of the pit, out of the miry clay.

**ALL: We will sing a new song! Our hearts overflow with gratitude!**

ONE: God set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm.  
Many will see! Many will see and hear!

**ALL: We will sing a new song! We gather in thanksgiving!**

ONE: What a blessing to trust in God.  
How happy we are to turn from that which cannot satisfy.

**ALL: We will sing a new song: "Here we are, O God, we have gathered to  
learn your pathways and follow in your footsteps."**

**Hymn of Praise**

***Sweet Hour of Prayer***

#505

### **\* Invocation [Unison]**

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations, and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image.

In the words of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr., “We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.”

You, God of eternal compassion, call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love. Let us know your presence among us now: let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus’ name.

### **\* Assurance of God’s Call**

#### **\* 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)

### ***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (The Message)**

Gospel Reading **John 1:29-42 (NRSV)**

Continuing Testament by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr



**Time With Young Worshippers**



1. *I waited patiently for the Lord. He inclined and heard my cry.  
He brought me up out of the pit, out of the miry clay.  
I will sing, sing a new song. I will sing, sing a new song.  
How long to sing this song? How long to sing this song?  
How long, how long, how long, how long to sing this song?*
2. *You set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm.  
Many will see, many will see and hear.  
I will sing, sing a new song. I will sing, sing a new song.  
How long to sing this song? How long to sing this song?  
How long, how long, how long, how long to sing this song?*  
(Words & Music by U2; © Copyright 1982 Blue Mountain Music Limited)

**Sermon*****What are You Looking For?***

by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection*****Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

#472

***The Church at Prayer***

Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), friends of Bill Toneff, family and friends of Lenore Harris, Suzanne Patrick, George Snider, Dorie Gabor, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, 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

### \* 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]

Small and large gifts, we give back to you,  
O Lord of All Given Things.  
May they be blessed.  
May we use them to keep our promises to you,  
Promises given from us who are given,  
uniquely designed for your calling.

## Going with God's Love

### Hymn of Departure

*We Shall Overcome*

#570



***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**

***Higher Ground***

Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)



“TRUE PEACE  
IS NOT  
MERELY THE  
ABSENCE OF  
TENSION: IT  
IS THE  
PRESENCE OF  
JUSTICE.”

- FROM *STRIDE TOWARDS  
FREEDOM*, BY MLK

Attendance on Sunday, January 8, 2023 – Adults: 67; Kids: 7; Live Stream: 7; Total: 81

## ***Announcements***

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – The next congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 22, after the service. At this meeting we will vote on the final slate of officers and 2023 budget.

**SUNDAY FLOWERS MINISTRY** – Flowers in the chancel area add a special touch to our Sunday morning worship that we all enjoy. A big thank you to those who have volunteered to bring them in, and a welcome to anyone who would like to do so! We have several vases in the flower room that can be used, and you will be reimbursed for the cost of the flowers. The grocery stores in the area have a nice selection and some come from home gardens. If you are interested in helping out a few times during the year, please talk to or call anyone in the flower ministry. Thank you! – Janet Renovetz

**MUSIC** – If you'd like to hear more contemporary music at Sunday services, please feel free to contact Dave Debick with song titles or names of performers you're interested in. His church email is: [buccmusic23@gmail.com](mailto:buccmusic23@gmail.com) . We can't promise that sheet music will be available for every request, but your input/feedback is always welcome and appreciated.



## Readings

### First Reading

#### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (The Message)

I, Paul, have been called and sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God's plan, along with my friend Sosthenes. I send this letter to you in God's church at Corinth, believers cleaned up by Jesus and set apart for a God-filled life. I include in my greeting all who call out to Jesus, wherever they live. He's their Master as well as ours!

May all the gifts and benefits that come from our Creator, and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours.

Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives.

Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of God's Son and our Master Jesus. They will never give up on you. Never forget that.

### Gospel Reading

#### John 1:29-42 (NRSV)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

*(continued)*

## Readings

### Gospel Reading (*continued*)

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

**Continuing Testament** – From ***Letter from a Birmingham Jail***, by  
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"...I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial 'outside agitator' idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere in this country."

# Special Thanks:

## January 15, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan  
Ushers: Evie Novak  
Evelyn Seager  
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson  
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***  
A/V Team: Jim Duffy  
Flowers: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Snack: Betsey Wilson  
***Volunteer Needed***  
Set Up/Serve: Betsey Wilson  
***Volunteer Needed***  
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Snow Herder: ***Volunteers Needed***

## January 22, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley  
Ushers: Evelyn Seager  
***Volunteer Needed***  
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval  
Greeter: Dave Bernard  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***  
A/V Team: David Pastor  
Flowers: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Snack: Jon Thompson  
***Volunteer Needed***  
Set Up/Serve: Sue & Cliff Stenzel  
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***  
Snow Herder: ***Volunteers Needed***

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