



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*

To work for
a just world
where there is
not servitude,
oppression, or
alienation is
to work for
the advent of
the Messiah.

- Gustavo Gutiérrez,
*The Power of the
Poor in History*
(1979)



A Light
has
Dawned

3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 22nd, 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 – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

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

Sunday January 22nd, 2023
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

I Have Called You by Your Name

Damon

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait. For the right time in which to discover who we are, where we are to go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you ... for the waiting time." - A prayer of the Iona Community in Scotland

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship:** *(inspired by Psalm 27)*

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

People: God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!

Leader: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love.

**People: O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us!
Be our guide and our light instead!**

Leader: One thing we ask of God:

**People: That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life,
and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

Leader: Beloved of God, enter this prayer in thanksgiving,
for God is among and within us!

People: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#454

*** Invocation [Unison]**

Gracious Light-Bearer,
Into the shadows of our isolation
you speak words of life and community.
Challenger of our lives,
you call us from places we call home
to lead us more deeply into the world you love.
With your gentle, healing touch
you redeem the broken places of our lives
and you heal the wounded places of the earth.
Inspire our worship here this day,
so that we may receive liberation in your word,
and be filled to overflowing
to share your reconciling love throughout the earth.
We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

*** 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 1:10-18 (The Message)**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 4:12-23 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Continuing Testament by Eugene H. Peterson



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem ***Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*** African American spiritual

1. *Hush, hush, somebody's calling my name. (3 times)*

O my God, O my God, what shall I do?

2. *Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name. (3 times)*

O my God, O my God, what shall I do?

3. *I will follow, Jesus will show me the way. (3 times)*

O my God, O my God, that's what I'll do. (2 times)

(Arrangement: Jeffrey Radford, 1993: arr. Copyright 1993 The Pilgrim Press)

Sermon ***Worshipping Christ or Following Jesus?*** by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection ***You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*** #173

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]

God, to you we dedicate these gifts this day. May this act of giving inspire other ways that we may reach out to your people, seeking out those who need your nourishing spirit. And we pray that you will multiply our offerings and the gifts of all your faithful people that your love may be revealed on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Called as Partners in Christ's Service #495



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

Your Cause Be Mine

Eckhardt

*"Your cause be mine, great Lord divine.
The world's emancipation:
to let your light invade the dark in every situation,
to prove you in a thousand ways,
to serve you well with zeal ablaze
through life's unknown duration."*

(Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, b. 1931; Words and Music Copyright 1973, 1996 Covenant Publications)

Announcements:

*****CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY**, immediately following the service, in the sanctuary. At this meeting we will vote on the final slate of officers and the 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

MARDI GRAS – The first event for 2023 will be the Mardi Gras Potluck, after our spirited church service on Sunday, February 19th. We would like people to sign up with Kathy Smith over the next few Sundays, to bring either a Main Course, a Side Dish or a Salad. Cajun or Mardi Gras themed food is suggested, but is just an option for anyone who chooses to bring something. There is no need for desserts, as King Cakes will be provided. (King Cake is from the story of the 3 Kings, is iced in Mardi Gras colors, and there is a miniature plastic baby Jesus inside each cake to signify the Epiphany. If you find the baby Jesus you are a king!) Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!!

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. We can't promise that sheet music will be available for every request, but your input/feedback is always welcome and appreciated.

Attendance on Sunday, January 15, 2023 – Adults: 50; Kids: 6; Live Stream: 6; Total: 62

Readings

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (The Message)

I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.

I bring this up because some from Chloe's family brought a most disturbing report to my attention - that you're fighting among yourselves! I'll tell you exactly what I was told: You're all picking sides, going around saying, "I'm on Paul's side," or "I'm for Apollos," or "Peter is my man," or "I'm in the Messiah group."

I ask you, "Has the Messiah been chopped up in little pieces so we can each have a relic all our own? Was Paul crucified for you? Was a single one of you baptized in Paul's name?"

I was not involved with any of your baptisms - except for Crispus and Gaius - and on getting this report, I'm sure glad I wasn't. At least no one can go around saying they were baptized in my name. (Come to think of it, I also baptized Stephanas's family, but as far as I can recall, that's it.)

God didn't send me out to collect a following for myself, but to preach the Message of what the Messiah has done, collecting a following for God. And he didn't send me to do it with a lot of fancy rhetoric of my own, lest the powerful action at the center - Christ on the Cross - be trivialized into mere words.

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hell-bent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23 (The Inclusive Bible)

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, the way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

(continued)

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message, “Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is at hand!”

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers - Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew - casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind.” They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers - James and John, ben-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the reign of heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people. His fame spread throughout Syria, and people suffering from illnesses and painful ailments of all kinds - those who were afflicted by demons, those who were epileptic, those who were paralyzed - were brought to Jesus, and he healed them. Large crowds followed Jesus, coming from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and Transjordan.

Continuing Testament – From *Introduction to Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians* by Eugene H. Peterson

When people become Christians, they don’t at the same moment become nice. This always comes as something of a surprise. Conversion to Christ and his ways doesn’t automatically furnish a person with impeccable manners and suitable morals.

The people of Corinth had a reputation in the ancient world as an unruly, hard-drinking, sexually promiscuous bunch of people. When Paul arrived with the Message and many of them became believers in Jesus, they brought their reputations with them right into the church.

Paul spent a year and a half with them as their pastor, going over the Message of the “good news” in detail, showing them how to live out this new life of salvation and holiness as a community of believers. Then he went on his way to other towns and churches.

(*continued*)

Readings

Continuing Testament (*continued*)

Sometime later Paul received a report from one of the Corinthian families that in his absence things had more or less fallen apart. He also received a letter from Corinth asking for help. Factions had developed, morals were in disrepair, worship had degenerated into a selfish grabbing for the supernatural. It was the kind of thing that might have been expected from Corinthians!

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is a classic of pastoral response: affectionate, firm, clear, and unswerving in the conviction that God among them, revealed in Jesus and present in his Holy Spirit, continued to be the central issue in their lives, regardless of how much of a mess they had made of things. Paul doesn't disown them as brother and sister Christians, doesn't throw them out because of their bad behavior, and doesn't fly into a tirade over their irresponsible ways. He takes it all more or less in stride, but also takes them by the hand and goes over all the old ground again, directing them in how to work all the glorious details of God's saving love into their love for one another.



Special Thanks:

January 22, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Kathy Pastor
Evelyn Seager
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 Stenzel
Cliff Cribbs
Clean Up: Kathy Pastor
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteers Needed***

January 29, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteers Needed***
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***
A/V Team: ***Volunteers Needed***
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: ***Volunteers Needed***
Set Up/Serve: Caroline Chandler
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Caroline Chandler
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteers Needed***

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