



Brecksville United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

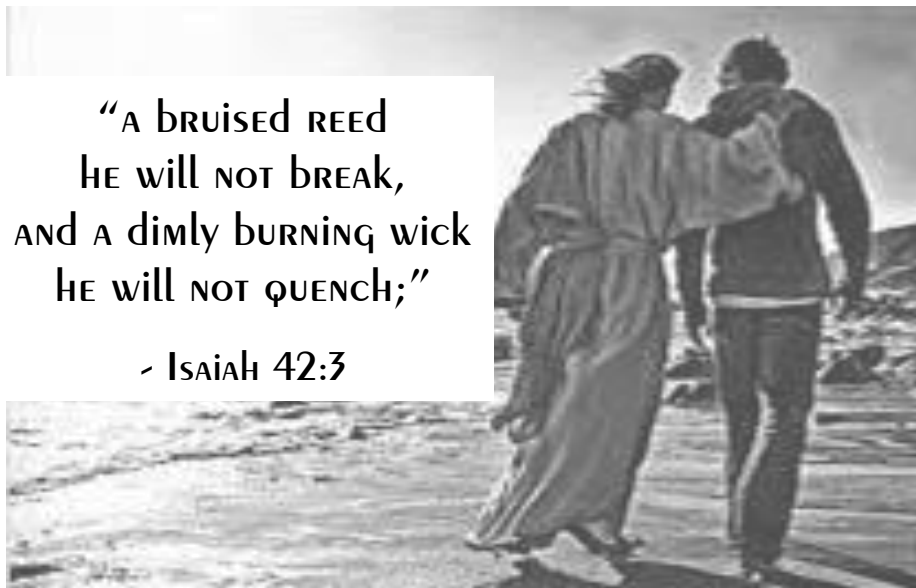
***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power***

"I would (if wishing could make it so) have for you the gift of community, a nucleus of love and challenge, to convince you in your soul that you (yes, you!) are a source of light in a world too long believing in the dark."

- Rev. Maureen Killoran

**"A BRUISED REED
HE WILL NOT BREAK,
AND A DIMLY BURNING WICK
HE WILL NOT QUENCH;"**

- ISAIAH 42:3



January 8th, 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 8th, 2023
The Baptism of the Lord

Prelude *What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams* Hurd
*"Christ gleams with water brown with clay from land the prophets trod.
Above while heaven's clouds give way descends the dove of God."
(Music: David Hurd, 1994; words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1984; rev. 1993)*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"Baptism separates the tire kickers from the car buyers."

-- Max Lucado

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 29)**

Leader: People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed. Let us hear again the call we heard in baptism that encourages us and strengthens our resolve to be God's people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

People: Ascribe to our GOD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to our GOD glory and strength.

Leader: Ascribe to our GOD a glorious name; worship our GOD in holy splendor.

People: The voice of our GOD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Eternal One, over mighty waters.

Leader: The voice of our GOD is powerful; the voice of our GOD is full of majesty.

People: May our GOD give strength to the people! May the Eternal One bless the people with peace!

Hymn of Praise

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

#115

v. 1, 3, 5 & 6

* Invocation [Unison]

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God, we come to this time and place to be with you, to worship you, and to learn from you. Your Spirit was above the waters of creation, your Spirit was above the waters of the Red Sea as your people crossed from slavery to freedom. Your Spirit was over the waters of the Jordan River, as John baptized Jesus, your beloved Son. May your Spirit be with us again this day.

Water refreshes and cleanses, it both causes death and brings new life. So too, may your Spirit refresh and cleanse our souls, let us die to sin, and rise to new life in you. 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 **Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV)**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 1:1-17 (NRSVUE)**

Continuing Testament by Bono

Time With Young Worshipers



Anthem

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional

1. *As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way.*

Refrain: O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

2. *As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown. Good Lord, show me the way.*

Refrain: O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

3. *As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way.*

Refrain: O fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O fathers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

4. *As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown. Good Lord, show me the way.*

Refrain: O mothers, let's go down, come on down, don't-cha wanna go down.

Come on mothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

5. *As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way.*

Refrain: O sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. etc.

(Words and Music: traditional; arr. Sheldon Curry; Copyright © 2002 by Hal Leonard Corporation)

Sermon

Beginning Today

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

#167

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]**

Faithful God, bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others. We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used for the lifting up of those who are hurting, and for the building of your Reign on Earth. Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164



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

The Sinless One to Jordan Came

Melody from Graduale, 1685

“Let God grant
what is In Your Heart
and fulfill
all your plans.”

~ Psalm 20:4

Announcements

UNHANGING THE GREENS TODAY – It takes much less time to take down our beautiful Christmas decorations, but it's also a little bit of a letdown. Let's lean on each other as we DE-decorate the church! Please join us (especially those with muscle) after worship today. As always, your help is much appreciated! – Betsey Wilson

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.

MITTEN TREE – Have you noticed the mitten tree in the narthex? The hats, mittens, and ear warmers have been removed by the elves in the black forest and taken to a hunger center for distribution to those who do not have them. And what about those who may be overlooked?

BUCC members and friends, as they always so faithfully do, will see to it that more hats, mittens, and ear warmers will replace them on the tree for distribution to those who will need them in the cold days to come. God moves in wonderful, mysterious ways. – The Chandlers (aka, the elves)

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. 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 1, 2023 - Adults: 42; Kids: 1; Live Stream: 4; Total: 47

Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV)

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Eternal One, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Eternal One, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Eternal One, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-17 (NRSVUE)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Readings

Continuing Testament – From *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story* by Bono

On occasional Sundays, Guggi took me to Merrion Hall, a Holy Roller church meeting for the very evangelical...

“Are you saved yet?”

My mother was laughing when I came home that first night. She was familiar with the Boys Department kind of evangelizing. But listening to the speakers at these meetings, I was further attracted to the God of the Scriptures that they read from... I did have a sense of the divine, but it was inchoate and formless, so when I started to uncover clues about the nature of this presence, I was fascinated. The Bible held me rapt. The words stepped off the page and followed me home. I found more than poetry in that Gothic King James script.

Soon I started to enjoy a modern translation, the Good News Bible, which I discovered when I accompanied Guggi at a YMCA camp...

I'd always be first up when there was an altar call, the “come to Jesus” moment. I still am. If I was in a café right now and someone said, “Stand up if you're ready to give your life to Jesus,” I'd be the first to my feet. I took Jesus with me everywhere and I still do. I've never left Jesus out of the most banal or profane actions of my life.



Special Thanks:

January 8, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Dave Bernard
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: ***Volunteers Needed***
Snack: Carol Miller
Pat Rehm
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***
Snow Herder: ***Volunteers Needed***

January 15, 2023

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

NOTES: _____
