



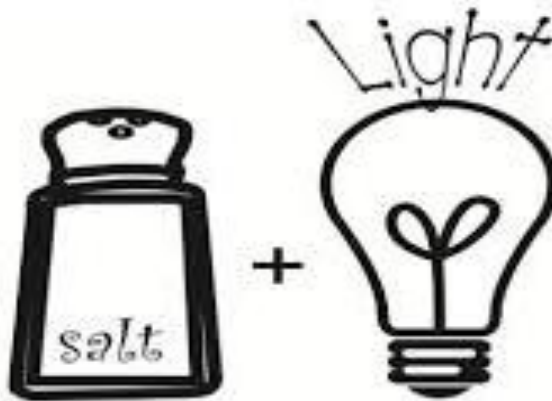
Brecksville United Church of Christ

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

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

"When I went to the moon, I was a pragmatic test pilot. But when I saw the planet Earth floating in the vastness of space, the presence of divinity became almost palpable, and I knew that life in the universe was not just an accident."

– Edgar Mitchell
(Apollo 14
Astronaut)



MATTHEW 5:1-16

5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 5th, 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 February 5th, 2023

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

God of Inspiration

Unbehagen

*"To the One who paints the colors into the sunsets of the sky.
To the One who shapes the plants' and creatures' infinite design.
For the 'unsymmetric' symmetry of the sparrow, the oak, the rose.
For the ever-changing tapestry that feeds the eye and soul.*

We praise You, O God of Inspiration."

(Words and Music: Mark Unbehagen, Copyright © 2008)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"Admire and adore the Author of the telescopic universe, love and esteem the work. Do all in your power to lessen ill and increase good.

But never assume to comprehend."

- John Adams (second president of the U.S. and member of the Congregationalist Church, which would later become the UCC)

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 8)**

One: Wonderful God! Awesome God! How majestic is your name in all the universe.

All: Wonderful God! Awesome God! How majestic is your name in all the universe.

One: Your glory is woven through the fabric of the heavens. Everywhere we turn, below us, beside us, above us, all that we experience is evidence of your presence. Soil, grass, water, sun, moon, and stars, all of them proof of your work in the universe.

*** Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 8)**

(Continued on next page)

*** Call to Worship: *(continued)***

All: Wonderful God! Awesome God! How majestic is your name in all the universe.

One: We wonder: why do you care about us? What are we compared to the galaxies spread across time and space, or to the amazing worlds of life too small for us to see or to the great animals of land and sea?

All: Wonderful God! Awesome God! How majestic is your name in all the universe.

One: You have called us to be caretakers, giving us curiosity and wonder that drive us to explore the entirety of creation from the microscopic worlds of bacteria and atoms to the telescopic worlds orbiting stars billions of miles away.

All: Wonderful God! Awesome God! How majestic is your name in all the universe.

One: We are called to care for the web of life here on earth, and to seek out life that may exist elsewhere in your universe, all life everywhere a part of your sacred work of creation.

All: Wonderful God! Awesome God! How majestic is your name in all the universe.

*** Hymn of Praise** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* #556

*** Invocation [Unison]**

Wonderful God, we gather today to celebrate your presence in the lives of faithful people. Send your Spirit to meet us here and guide us into your depths, that we may begin to glimpse your grace: what eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived – all you have prepared for those who love you.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Mystery, your Wisdom, your Glory.

*** 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 2:1-12 (GW)**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 5:13-16 (NRSV)**

Continuing Testament by The Rev. John H. Thomas



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

You Are the Light of the World

Tate, arr. Debick

Erin Tomlinson, flute; Craig Ramsey, guitar

Refrain: You are the light of the world! (twice)

Let your light shine for all to see! You are the light of the world!

1. Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the lost and the homeless.

Your wounds shall quickly be healed; your light shall break forth like the dawn! (Refrain)

2. Hear the cries of the needy; listen with love and compassion.

Our God will answer their call, and fill them with joy unending! (Refrain)

3. Jesus tells his disciples: "You are salt of the earth!

Your light must shine before all! Give glory to God's holy name!" (Refrain)

(Music and Words: Paul A. Tate; Copyright © 1997, World Library Publications; arr. D. Debick)

Sermon by Pastor Rob Grow

Hymn of Reflection

You Are Salt for the Earth

#181

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of Jeanne Cowden, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Suzanne Patrick, George Snider, Dorie Gabor, Mac Hoppel, Dassy Matsuoaka, 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), family and friends of Lenore Harris, friends of Bill Toneff, "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]**

O God, please take these gifts and multiply them; let them be a means to create the justice and peace you long for in this world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Praise the Source of Faith and Learning*
(sung to tune HYFRYDOL)

#411



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.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (half), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the notes: A (above G4), E (above B4), A (above C5), D (above B4), Bm (above G4), E (above F#4). The second staff has chords: A (above G4), C#7 (above B4), F#m (above C5), Bm (above B4), E7sus4 (above G4), E7 (above F#4), A (above E3).

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue

Schumann

Announcements:

MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION - There will be no meditation group on the last two Wednesdays of February (2/15 and 2/22) - sessions will resume on March 1, at 11 am. Thanks! – Carol

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!!

SOUPS ON! Please join us for our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper, on February 22nd. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for soup at 6:30 pm, followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a loaf of bread to share (those with last names beginning with N-Z will be asked to contribute bread on Maundy Thursday).

Side Note: BUCC has the most amazing chefs! We're looking for six volunteers to make soup - three for Ash Wednesday and three for Maundy Thursday. If you're looking for an eager and appreciative audience to try out a new recipe, or if you already know you make a BUCC favorite, please let Betsey know. We're looking for about 30-40 servings (approximately 1 ½ gallons each) for either Ash Wednesday (February 22) or Maundy Thursday (April 6). Thank you!

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.

Readings

First Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (GW)

Brothers and sisters, when I came to you, I didn't speak about God's mystery as if it were some kind of brilliant message or wisdom. While I was with you, I decided to deal with only one subject—Jesus Christ, who was crucified.

When I came to you, I was weak. I was afraid and very nervous. I didn't speak my message with persuasive intellectual arguments. I spoke my message with a show of spiritual power so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

However, we do use wisdom to speak to those who are mature. It is a wisdom that doesn't belong to this world or to the rulers of this world who are in power today and gone tomorrow.

We speak about the mystery of God's wisdom. It is a wisdom that has been hidden, which God had planned for our glory before the world began. Not one of the rulers of this world has known it. If they had, they wouldn't have crucified the Lord of glory. But as Scripture says: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love God.”

God has revealed those things to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, especially the deep things of God. After all, who knows everything about a person except that person's own spirit? In the same way, no one has known everything about God except God's Spirit.

Now, we didn't receive the spirit that belongs to the world. Instead, we received the Spirit who comes from God so that we could know the things which God has freely given us.

Readings

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-16 (NRSV)

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Creator in heaven."

Continuing Testament – From ***"A New Voice Arising: A Pastoral Letter on Faith Engaging Science and Technology"*** by The Rev. John H. Thomas
General Minister and President, United Church of Christ (2008)

Science shows us a cosmos that gives birth to stars, galaxies, planets, life, mind, and self-consciousness, all emerging one after the other, each stage giving birth to what follows, each playing its part in the interactive dance of cosmic self-generation. Through these discoveries, science reveals a new picture of human beings as tiny creatures in a vast cosmic sea. We are filled with amazement and awe, and we are brought face to face with new questions about ourselves and our place in the universe. Are we alone? Does the universe have a purpose? What does it mean to be human?

Questions like these are as old as scripture and as new as the latest discoveries of physics and biology. For many people today, old answers to these questions are no longer credible. Science is sometimes unsettling because it destroys old foundations without providing new ones.

Yet because of science, many today are on a new search for meaning. Can our church address the seekers of today? Can we offer a word for our time, one full of hope and encouragement, one taken seriously for its keen insight and honest comprehension? Can we dare to seek, to wonder, and if necessary to doubt until we believe anew, confident that in the end we will be filled with a fresh faith that engages the hunger in so many hearts and minds?

Special Thanks:

February 5, 2023

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteers Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteers Needed*
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Snack: Caroline Chandler
Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*
Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*
Snow Herder: *Volunteer Needed*

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Bill Witt
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteers Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteers Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: *Volunteer Needed*

NOTES:
