



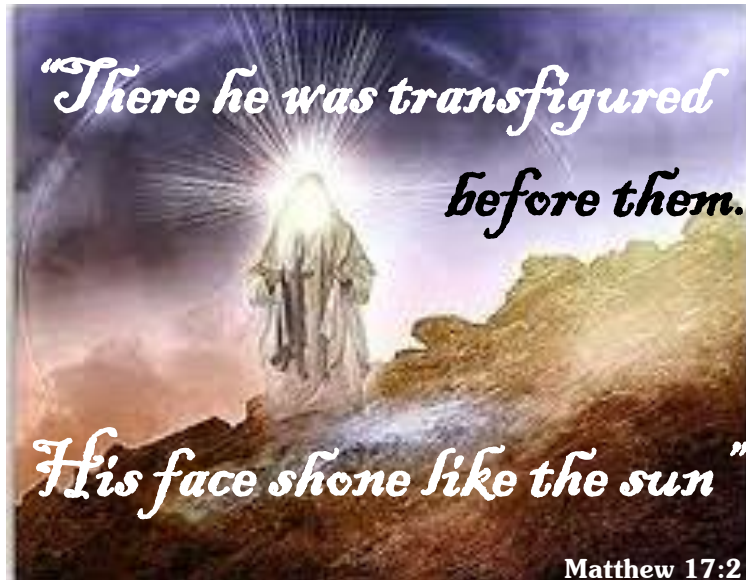
# Brecksville United Church of Christ

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

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

"Good People,  
most royal  
greening  
verdancy,  
rooted in  
the sun,  
you shine with  
radiant light."

- Hildegard of  
Bingen  
(c. 1098-1179)



**Transfiguration Sunday, February 19<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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# Transfiguration Sunday/Mardi Gras - February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Prelude                      *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*                      Traditional Gospel song

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

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*"I thought of the soul as resembling a castle, formed of a single diamond or a very transparent crystal, and containing many rooms." - Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582)*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

### **\* Call to Prayer:**

One: Something drew us together this morning,

**All: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship**

One: Some holy mystery we call God,

**All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus,**

One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit.

**All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.**

### **\* Hymn of Praise**

***Oh, When the Saints***

1. Oh, when the saints go marchin' in; (twice)

Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in.

2. Oh, when the sun begins to shine; (twice)

Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the sun begins to shine.

3. Oh, when we meet at heaven's gate; (twice)

Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when we meet at heaven's gate.

4. Oh, when we see the truth at last; (twice)

Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when we see the truth at last.

5. Oh, when we join our hands as one; (twice)

Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when we join our hands as one.

6. Oh, when the saints go marchin' in; (twice)

Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in.

(Words and Music: African American spiritual)

### \* Invocation [Unison]

O God, you are beyond words and description, your love is beyond knowledge and explanation. Make our hearts ready to receive you. Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the glory of your transfiguration. We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit. 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 **2 Peter 1:16-19 (NIV)**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 17:1-9 (NIV)**

Continuing Testament by Thomas Merton



### **Time With Young Worshippers**



#### **Anthem**

#### ***Glory, Glory Hallelujah***

African American spiritual

1. *Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down. (twice)*
2. *I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (twice)*
3. *Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down. (twice)*
4. *I am dancing Miriam's dance now,  
I am dancing Miriam's dance, since I laid my burdens down. (twice)*
5. *I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down. (twice)*
6. *Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down. (twice)*  
*(Music and Words: African American spiritual, arr. J.F. Johnson and D. Debick)*

**Sermon**     ***Simon Peter's Excellent, Adventurous, Wonderful, Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Week***     by Pastor John King



**Hymn of Reflection**     ***This Little Light of Mine***

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
  2. Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
  3. Won't let anyone (blow) it out, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
  4. Bring new hope to all the world, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
  5. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
- (Music and Words: African American spiritual)



***The Church at Prayer***

The family and friends of Jeanne Cowden, Dorie Gabor, Caroline Chandler, Jim Brownlow (Betsey Wilson's brother), Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Suzanne Patrick, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Phyllis Hassler, 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 Instrumental

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Dorsey

### \* 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 Awe and Glory, receive these gifts as symbols of our trust in you. Bless the givers and those who desired to give. Multiply these offerings and the blessings they represent. Guide the disbursement of them according to your will. These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure      *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

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### *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

*Medley: Down by the Riverside/Oh, When the Saints*

# *Announcements:*

**TODAY'S MUSIC** – We would like to acknowledge our awesome Mardi Gras musicians: Steve Ostrow on trumpet, trombone, and tuba; Dave Shackle on trumpet; and Steve Kraus on banjo. Thank you, gentlemen, for sharing your outstanding musical gifts with us once again!

**POTLUCK TODAY!** - Please join us after today's service for the return of our Mardi Gras Potluck. And don't worry if you haven't brought a dish to share – you are welcome regardless, as we have so much food! Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!!

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - Our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper is on this Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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).

**MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION** - There will be no meditation group this Wednesday, 2/22. Sessions will resume on March 1 at 11 am. Thanks! – Carol

**MUSIC** – Seasonal Choir will begin preparing for Holy Week on Thursday February 23 from 7:00–7:50. During Holy Week, we commemorate events that are central to our faith: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday); the Last Supper and Institution of Holy Communion (Maundy Thursday); Christ's crucifixion, death, and burial (Good Friday); and his miraculous Resurrection on Easter morning. If you enjoy singing in a group setting, consider joining us on this musical/spiritual journey. All are welcome to participate, including high school students.

**GAME NIGHT** - WHEN? March 24, 6:00pm. WHERE? BUCC. WHY? Why not?!  
Enjoy a night of fun & games with church family - bring a game to share (optional), a snack or appetizer to share, and a friend to enjoy the fun. Beverages will be provided, and YOU will provide the fun and fellowship!

- Brought to you by the Membership Ministry

Attendance on Sunday, February 12, 2023 – Adults: 77; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 8; Total: 93



# Readings

## **First Reading**

### **2 Peter 1:16-19 (NIV)**

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

For he received honor and glory from God when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

## **Gospel Reading**

### **Matthew 17:1-9 (NIV)**

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

## Readings

### Continuing Testament – *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* (excerpts from pages 156-158), by Thomas Merton

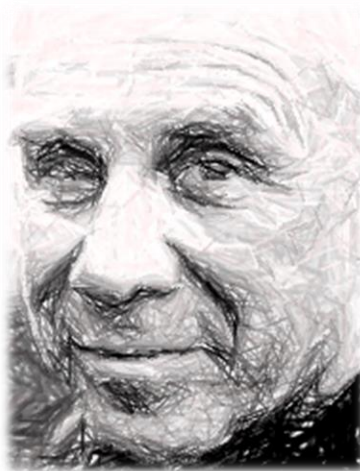
“In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers.

It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness...

I have the immense joy of being human, a member of a race in which God became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun...

At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point of spark which belongs entirely to God ... It is so to speak God's name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence, as our kinship. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.

The gate of heaven is everywhere.”



# Special Thanks:



## **February 19, 2023**

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Dave Bernard  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Rose Kaval  
**Greeter:** Carol Miller  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** Arthur Cook  
**Peace Candle:** Dorothy Cook  
**A/V Team:** David Pastor  
**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel  
**Snack:** **POTLUCK**  
**Set Up/Serve:** Sue & Cliff Stenzel  
**Clean Up:** Kathy Pastor  
**Snow Herder:** **Volunteer Needed**



## **February 22, 2023** **(Ash Wednesday)**

**Lay Reader:** Rose Kaval  
**Set Up:** Peg Duffy  
Katie MacKeigan King  
Sue Maier  
Pat Rolfe  
Betsey Wilson  
**Servers:** Allison Colbert  
Gayle Colbert  
Evie Novak  
Carole Snider  
**Clean Up:** Tia Began  
Dave Debick  
Rose Kaval  
Carole Snider  
Jill Zedan

## **FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

**Head Usher:** Evie Novak  
**Ushers:** Carol Miller  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan  
**Greeter:** Dave Bernard  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** **Volunteers Needed**  
**Peace Candle:** **Volunteers Needed**  
**A/V Team:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Flowers:** Tia Began  
**Snack:** Lois Lorenzo  
Jon Thompson  
**Set Up/Serve:** Tia Began  
**Volunteer Needed**  
**Clean Up:** **Volunteers Needed**  
**Snow Herder:** **Volunteer Needed**

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.