



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

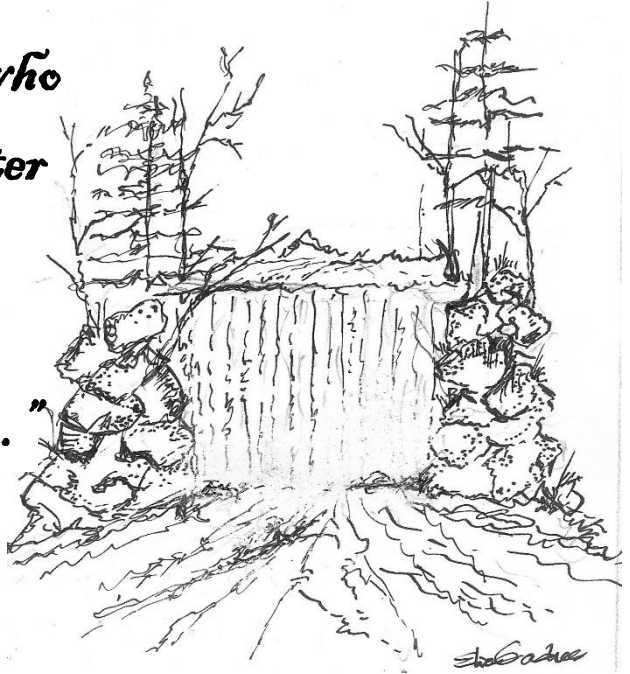
*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

"There are
two ways of
spreading
light –
to be the
candle
or the
mirror that
reflects it."

- Edith Wharton

*"But those who
drink the water
I give
will never be
thirsty again."*

- John 4:14



Third Sunday of Lent - March 12th, 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!

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12th, 2023

Prelude

We Will Draw Water Joyfully

James Maher

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*"In the end, she became more than what she expected. She became the journey,
and like all journeys, she did not end,
she just simply changed directions and kept going." - r. m. drake*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship:**

One: God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

Many: We come before you weary from traveling through barren lands.

One: Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

Many: You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

One: Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

Many: Crack our hearts open and let your love flow like a spring.

*** Hymn of Praise**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

*** Invocation [Unison]**

Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. We take comfort in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. 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 **Exodus 17:1-7 (The Voice Translation)**

Gospel Reading **John 4:8-33, 39-54**

Continuing Testament By Karoline M. Lewis

Youth Song

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

Bradbury/Warner

1. Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! (three times) The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way.

He's prepared a home for me, and someday His face I'll see. (Refrain two times)

(Music: William B. Bradbury, 1862; words: Anna B. Warner, 1860)



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

Living Waters

Getty/Cash

Craig Ramsey, guitar

Are you thirsty, are you empty? Come and drink these living waters.

Tired and broken, peace unspoken, rest beside these living waters.

Christ is calling to find refreshing at the cross of living waters.

Lay your life down, all the old gone, rise up in these living waters.

Refrain: There's a river that flows with mercy and love, bringing joy to the city of our God.

There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore, praise the Lord of living waters.

Spirit moving, mercy washing, healing in these living waters.

Lead your children to the shoreline, life is in these living waters. (Refrain)

Are you thirsty, are you empty? Come and drink these living waters.

Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless, Christ, He is our living waters. (Refrain)

(Words & Music: Kristyn Getty & Ed Cash; © 2016 Universal Music Publishing Group)

Sermon

“Wellspring of Living Water”

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

When, like the Woman at the Well

#196

The Church at Prayer

Suzanne Patrick, Dorie Gabor, Caroline Chandler, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Jim Brownlow (Betsey Wilson's brother), Evelyn Seager, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson, Phyllis Hassler, Rose Kaval, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Betty Kaul, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, 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 now are in the time of Lent,
To learn again what Jesus meant.
His life and message are so great,
We send these gifts to celebrate! Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: [Unison]

Fount of Blessing, bless these our gifts for we share them joyfully. Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each other. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure Let Justice Flow like Streams #588

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 **Hear Our Prayer, O God (below)**. 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.



* Benediction

Postlude

The Love of God Will Carry Us

Wong

Announcements:

SEASONAL CHOIR – It's not too late to join us in preparing for Holy Week! Practices are on Thursday evenings, from 7:00–7:50. 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.

LENTEN PROJECT – In the next few weeks, the kids will be selling their handmade items during coffee hour. All of the proceeds for this year's Lenten project will go to the Cleveland Foodbank.

LENTEN SERIES – This week's study will cover chapters 4 & 5 from the book ***The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*** (Borg & Crossan). We will meet tomorrow at 6:30 pm, and if you wish to attend remotely, the link is on the church's website calendar. **Note: There is one last book available for anyone interested, and please submit your book payment if you haven't already done so. Thank you!**

OCWM - At Brecksville UCC, we are answering the call of "doing justice and seeking peace" by meeting each month to write to our legislators.

Drawing on issues which have been identified by the National UCC as areas for advocacy, we'll make our voices heard by writing. **The next session will be on Tuesday March 14 at 6:15 pm at Panera in Brecksville.** We will be writing to Governor DeWine to urge him to declare a disaster in East Palestine after the train derailment.

If you are unable to attend but would like to write on your own, take a stamped postcard located in the lobby area outside of the office. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Kelley. (You can find Ann's contact information in Breeze or by calling the church office.)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – We will have this special collection on **March 19th** - this is the UCC's special mission offering that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

FOOD DONATIONS - Please note the basket outside the church office accepts nonperishable food items any time. We have several church members who take the items to local food banks, once it is filled. Feel free to contribute at any time!

GAME NIGHT – The following event is brought to you by the Membership Ministry:

“*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!”

Cover art, "Living Water," by Elizabeth Gadus.

Attendance on Sunday, March 5th, 2023 – Adults: 66; Kids: 5; Live Stream: 10; Total: 81

Readings

First Reading: "Water in the Desert" **Exodus 17:1-7 (The Voice Translation)**

The entire community of Israel traveled in stages out of the desert of Sin, just as the Eternal instructed. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water there to quench their thirst. Once again the people complained to Moses, saying, "Give us water to drink! We're thirsty."

Moses responded, "Why do you aim your complaints at me? Why are you testing the Eternal One?"

But the people were so thirsty for water, they complained to Moses and leveled accusations against him. They said, "Why did you lead us out of Egypt? Was it to kill all of us - our children and livestock included - with this thirst?"

Moses had had enough of their complaints, so he cried out to the Eternal One. "What am I supposed to do with these people and their relentless complaining? They are on the verge of stoning me."

The Eternal One spoke to Moses: "Here's what I want you to do: go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Also, be sure to bring your shepherd's staff—the one with which you struck the Nile. I will be there when you arrive standing at the rock of Horeb. I want you to strike the rock with your staff; and when you do, water will flow out of it so that everyone will have enough to drink."

The elders of Israel accompanied Moses and watched as he did what the Eternal directed. Moses named the place Massah (which means "test") and Meribah (which means "complain") because the Israelites complained and tested the Eternal, saying, "Is God standing with us or not?"

Gospel Reading: "Woman at the Well" **John 4:8-33, 39-54**

In a small Samaritan town known as Sychar, Jesus and his entourage stopped to rest at the historic well that Jacob gave his son Joseph. It was about noon when Jesus found a spot to sit close to the well while the disciples ventured off to find provisions. From his vantage, he watched as a Samaritan woman approached to draw some water. Unexpectedly Jesus spoke to her. "Would you draw water, and give me a drink?"

The woman was astonished. "I cannot believe that you, a Jew, would associate with me, a Samaritan woman; much less ask me to give you a drink."

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading: *(continued)*

Jews, you see, had no dealings with Samaritans. Also, a man never approached a woman like this in public. Jesus was breaking accepted social barriers with this confrontation. Jesus said to her, “You don’t know the gift of God or who is asking you for a drink of this water from Jacob’s well. Because if you did, you would have asked him for something greater; and he would have given you the living water.”

She responded, “Sir, you sit by this deep well a thirsty man without a bucket in sight. Where does this living water come from? Are you claiming superiority to our ancestor Jacob who labored long and hard to dig and maintain this well so that he could share clean water with his children, grandchildren, and cattle?”

Jesus told her, “Drink this water, and your thirst is quenched only for a moment. You must return to this well again and again. I offer water that will become a wellspring within you that gives life throughout eternity. You will never be thirsty again.”

So she said, “Please, Sir, give me some of this water, so I’ll never be thirsty and never again have to make the trip to this well.”

Jesus told her “Then bring your husband to me.”

But she responded, “I do not have a husband.”

Jesus said, “Technically you are telling the truth. You have had five husbands and are currently living with a man you are not married to.”

She said, “Sir, it is obvious to me that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped here on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the only place for all to worship. Which is it?”

Jesus told her, “Woman, I tell you that neither is so. Believe this: a new day is coming - in fact, it’s already here - when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship but on the truthful hearts of worshipers. You worship what you don’t know while we worship what we do know, for God’s salvation is coming through the Jews. The God is spirit, and God is seeking followers whose worship is sourced in truth and deeply spiritual as well. Regardless of whether you are in Jerusalem or on this mountain, if you do not seek the Eternal One, then you do not worship.”

The woman responded, saying, “Then perhaps these mysteries will be made clear by the promised one, the Anointed One.”

Then Jesus said, “The Anointed is speaking to you now. I am the One you have been looking for.”

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading: (*continued*)

Just then, the disciples returned to Jesus in amazement that He would openly break their customs by speaking to this woman, but none of them would ask what he was doing or why he was speaking with her.

The woman went back to the town, leaving her water pot behind. She stopped men and women on the streets and told them about what had happened, saying, “I just met a stranger who knew everything about me. Come and see for yourselves; can he be the Anointed One?”

A crowd came out of the city and approached Jesus.

During all of this, the disciples were urging Jesus to eat the food they had brought. But Jesus said, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

Disciples said to one another, “Maybe someone else has brought him food while we were away?”

Meanwhile, because one woman shared with her neighbors how Jesus exposed her past and present, the village of Sychar was transformed - many Samaritans heard and believed. The Samaritans approached Jesus and repeatedly invited him to stay with them, so he lingered there for two days on their account. With the words that came from his mouth, there were many more believing Samaritans. They began their faith journey because of the testimony of the woman beside the well; but when they heard for themselves, they were convinced that the One they were hearing was and is God's Anointed, the Liberating Ruler, sent to rescue the entire world.

Continuing Testament – From *Belonging*, by Karoline M. Lewis

The woman at the well shows us that being a disciple of Jesus is not limited to those twelve named - isn't that a relief? - and the Gospels' writers couldn't even agree on the names of the twelve.¹ Jesus collects followers as he goes along, and often the most unlikely and unexpected individuals. Some have names, like Mary and Martha, Zacchaeus or Joseph of Arimathea,² but most of them don't - like the man born blind who was healed, or the women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities.³ I hope you find a sense of comfort - maybe even a sense of awe - in the fact that Jesus invites people to follow him somewhat indiscriminately.

¹ Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; see also Acts 1:13-14)

² (John 11-12:8; Luke 10:38-42), (Luke 19:1-9) (John 19:38-42)

³ (John 9:1-41) (Luke 8:1-3)

Readings

Continuing Testament (*continued*)

<http://jyotiartashram.blogspot.com/2011/06/image-which-i-find-myself-often.html>



We are also members of the most surprising cast of characters to take up the cross and follow Jesus. We are the Gentiles, after all. We are the outsiders, objects of God's love that those first twelve disciples could never have imagined, just like the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus sends those first followers out into the world because God loves the world, and look what happened. It seems Jesus meant it when he said, "God so loved the world."⁴

In the woman at the well, we discover what discipleship looks like embodied in a particular individual whose life is changed by her encounter with Jesus. Her encounter with Jesus unlocks her potential as a disciple of Jesus and offers us five keys for what belonging to Jesus means: discomfort, wonder, trust, letting go, and witness. By overhearing her conversation with Jesus, perhaps we can better imagine how our own discipleship has come about and better appreciate how we live it out. This encounter at Jacob's well should feel encouraging - that your own faith experiences can be trusted. That your own encounters with Jesus are worthy of reflection. And that you, as a disciple of Jesus, matter to Jesus - and to God.

⁴ (John 3:16)

Special Thanks:

March 12, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Lent
Snack: Katie MacKeigan King
Julie Bernard
Set Up/Serve: Julie Bernard
Casey Oliver
Clean Up: Kathy Pastor
Volunteer Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***



MARCH 19, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Carole Snider
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***



**CELEBRATE EASTER
WITH FLOWERS
IN OUR SANCTUARY**



Your donation will buy plants that will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and turn it in to the Church Office.

DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

I Enclose (\$?) for an Easter Plant cash: _____ check#: _____

“In Memory of _____ **”**

“In Honor of _____ **”**

Other _____

Your Name(s)
