



# Brecksville

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# 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*

“Spring comes  
on the World-  
I sight the Aprils-  
Hueless to me  
until thou come  
As, till the Bee  
Blossoms stand  
negative,  
Touched to  
Conditions  
By a Hum.”

-Emily Dickinson



**Easter Sunday - April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 • 10:00 AM**

**Pastor**

• John King

**Director of Music**

• David Debick

**Financial Secretary**

• Wes Novak

**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)***

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

# Easter Sunday - April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Prelude

*This Joyful Eastertide*

J. Oudaen's David's Psalmen, 1685

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

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*"Hearts rebuilt from hope resurrect dreams killed by hate."  
—Aberjhani, *The River of Winged Dreams**

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**\* Call to Worship:** *(based on Psalm 118 & John 20)*

One: Easter morning announces the Resurrection of Jesus!

**All: We gather to join our voices to those of Earth and Heaven. We celebrate the new life that God is bringing forth!**

One: This is the day that God has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: Out of the doom of death and despair - Victory comes, glory appears.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds of the God whose love endures forever.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

**\* Hymn of Praise**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

#233

**\* Invocation:** [Unison]

O, redeeming God - Like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb, we, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work, with our own teary eyes.

In this hour, O God, lift us up with Christ, through the movement of the Holy Spirit, So that others may be awakened through our preaching and proclaiming the good news: News of healing and life eternal, peace, justice, and community for all people. Amen.

**\* Words of Repentance:** [UNISON]

Creator of all life, God of the living, in a world where dreams and joy are too often entombed, you call us, us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we meet you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.

\* **Assurance of Grace**

\* **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 **Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (The Voice Translation)**

Gospel Reading **John 20: 1-18**

Continuing Testament by J.R.R. Tolkien



**Time With Young Worshippers**



**Anthem**

**Come, Sing and Be Joyful**

Vivaldi, arr. Spevacek

Becky Anderson and Erin Tomlinson, flute;  
Dave Shackle and Carrie Coyer-Westerberg, trumpet;  
Shani Diggs, timpani; Craig Ramsey, percussion

*Come, sing and be joyful, let music fill the air,  
let the sounds of our song break forth. (twice)*  
*Sing now this festive day, sing now and celebrate. (twice)*  
*Sing and join the merriment, sing and play an instrument.*  
*Hear the sound fill the air with the cymbal and the trumpet.*  
*Let the songs now break forth.*  
*Christ Jesus has risen, has risen!*  
*Life has triumphed over death. God's love has set us free.*  
*Come, sing, be joyful all ye lands, sing alleluia.*  
*Alleluia, Christ is risen, come and celebrate. (3 times)*  
*Come be joyful. Alleluia, let music fill the air, alleluia.*

(Music: Antonio Vivaldi, 1678-1741; English text: Linda Spevacek; Copyright 2007  
Heritage Music Press, a division of The Lorenz Corporation)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

**Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day**

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## ***The Church at Prayer***

Russ King, Suzanne Patrick, Caroline Chandler, Dorie Gabor, 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 Anthem**

#### ***Resurrection Day***

**Maher**

**Craig Ramsey, drums**

- 1. It's the weight of Your glory, brings the proud to their knees,  
and the light of revelation, lets the blind eyes see.  
It's the power of the cross, breaks away death's embrace,  
and we celebrate our freedom, dancing on an open grave.  
Roll away the stone, roll away the stone.*

*Refrain: We sing for joy, we shout Your name, we celebrate Your resurrection day. (twice)*

- 2. You declare what is holy, You declare what is good,  
in the sight of all the nations, You declare that You are God.  
It's the power of Your Blood, breaks away sin's embrace,  
and we celebrate our freedom, dancing on our broken chains.  
Roll away the stone, roll away the stone. (Refrain twice)*

*We sing and shout out Your resurrection story, crucified, died, You arose again in glory.  
Sing alleluia, yes You are our Salvation, sing alleluia, you won our liberation. Amen, amen!*

*(Words and Music: Matt Maher; Copyright 2005 EMI CMG Publishing)*

**\* 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]**

Let this offering, and the actions of our lives, announce the resurrection we need to see in the world.

## Holy Communion

**Communion Hymn**

*I Come with Joy*

#349



**Prayer after Communion: [UNISON]**

God of love, we give you thanks for the presence of our risen savior,  
In the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who  
are nourished by Christ's presence, that we may faithfully proclaim  
the good news of your love, and that your people may be a sign of  
hope in an uncertain world;  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

## Going with God's Love

**\* Hymn of Departure**

*The Day of Resurrection*

#245

**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 consists of 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 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff has a bass clef. The melody is: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (half). Chords below the staff are: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem*

Jarman

# Announcements:



*See back of bulletin for Easter Flower Dedications*



**OCWM** – Brecksville UCC is answering the call of “doing justice and seeking peace” by meeting each month to write to our legislators, drawing on issues identified by the National UCC as areas for advocacy. The next session will be on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:15 pm, at Panera in Brecksville. We will be writing to our Congressional representatives regarding reinstating the ban on assault weapons, and to the Ohio House’s Higher Education Committee, to stop HB61(the “Save Women’s Sports” bill, which bans transgender youth from participating in sports). If you can’t attend but would still like to contribute, take a stamped postcard located in the lobby area outside of the office. Please contact Ann Kelley with any questions (log in to Breeze or call the church office for Ann’s contact information).

**FREE CONCERT!** On **Sunday April 16 at 4:00 PM**, Brecksville United Church of Christ will host the Oberlin Jazz Quartet, from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The ensemble members include: Max Kassoy, saxophone; Kamran Curlin, bass; Lyric Anderson, piano; and Martin Kent, drums. They will perform works by many jazz greats, including John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, and Joe Henderson. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Plan on joining us in the sanctuary for a jammin' jazz session on April 16! For further info, call 440-526-4364.

**SAVE THE DATE** - Let’s Go Bowling! The Membership ministry is planning a bowling outing on **Sunday April 30, from 1-3 pm**, at North Woods Lanes in Macedonia (10435 Valley View Road). The price is \$14.00 per person, which includes bowling for 2 hours, shoe rental, 2 pieces of pizza and beverages (soft drinks and water). See David Pastor to sign up – you can obtain his contact info by calling or emailing the church office.

**NEW SIGNAGE** – The Facilities ministry has concluded that signage is necessary at the church’s parking lot entrance. The lettering will match the signage over the front doors, and the cost of each letter is \$75. Your contribution in any amount will be greatly appreciated! Be sure to designate your contributions “Rear Signage”.



Cover art by Karen Sandstrom.

Attendance on Sunday, April 2nd, 2023 – Adults: 69; Kids: 5; Live Stream: 6; Total: 80

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (The Voice Translation)

Peter stood up and said: "It is clear to me now that God plays no favorites, that God accepts every person whatever their culture or ethnic background, that God welcomes all who are reverent and do right.

*You already know that* God sent a message to the people of Israel; it was a message of peace, peace through Jesus the Anointed—who is King of all people. You know this message spread through Judea, beginning in Galilee where John called people to be ritually cleansed through baptism. <sup>38</sup>You know God identified Jesus as the uniquely chosen One by pouring out the Holy Spirit on Him, by empowering Him. You know Jesus went through the land doing good *for all* and healing all who were suffering under the oppression of evil, for God was with Him.

My friends and I stand as witnesses to all Jesus did in *the region of Judea and the city of Jerusalem*. The people of our capital city killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him up on the third day and made it possible for us to see Him.

Not everyone was granted this privilege, only those of us whom God chose as witnesses. We actually ate and drank with Him after His resurrection. He told us to spread His message to everyone and to tell them that He is the One whom God has chosen to be Judge, *to make a just assessment of all people* - both living and dead. All the prophets tell us about Him and assert that every person who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

### Gospel Reading

#### John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Readings

### **Gospel Reading: *(continued)***

He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two messengers in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Readings

### Continuing Testament – From *The Two Towers*, by J.R.R. Tolkien



“It’s like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo. The ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were. And sometimes you didn’t want to know the end. Because how could the end be happy? How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad had happened?”

But in the end, it’s only a passing thing, this shadow. Even darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer.

Those were the stories that stayed with you. That meant something, even if you were too small to understand why.

But I think, Mr. Frodo, I do understand. I know now. Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn’t. They kept going, because they were holding on to something. That there is some good in this world, and it’s worth fighting for.”

— Samwise Gamgee, in J.R.R. Tolkien’s second book of the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, *The Two Towers*

# Special Thanks:

## APRIL 9, 2023

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Allison Colbert  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Sherrill Witt  
**Greeter:** Jon Thompson  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** Gabriella Gagliano  
**Peace Candle:** Giuliana Gagliano  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers:** Janet Renovetz &  
Sue Stenzel  
**Snack:** Jenn Elting  
Erin Tomlinson  
**Set Up/Serve:** Carol Miller  
Sherrill Witt  
**Clean Up:** Pat Rehm  
Sherrill Witt



## APRIL 16, 2023

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Kate Matthews  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Diane Gressley  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Acolyte:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**Peace Candle:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**A/V Team:** Betsey Wilson  
**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel  
**Snack:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***



## 2023 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

### DEDICATED by:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Carol Miller & Pat Rehm | In honor of the Miller & Rehm families<br>In memory of the Urban family<br>In honor of children everywhere, that they may know love & peace<br>In honor of all those who work towards nonviolence & justice |
| Diane Gressley          | In memory of my parents, Evan & Emma  |
| Gina Cook               | In honor of Carolyn Chandler & Dassie Matsuoka  |
| Jill Zedan              | In memory of my husband, Terry Zedan  |
| Joe & Betsey Wilson     | In honor of Jim Brownlow  |
| Joy Garapic             | In memory of William Garapic, loving husband, father and grandfather  |
| Kim Smith               | In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Adair<br>In honor of Shirley Smith   |
| Lois Lorenzo            | In memory of Rudy Lorenzo   |
| Shelley Forbes          | In loving memory of my parents, Benjamin & Lucile Forbes, and my grandparents, Mildred and Elmer Wright   |
| Sherrill & Bill Witt    | In memory of Shirley & Arch Duncan<br>In memory of the Witt, Peart & Bishop families<br>For an end to violence in our schools & on our streets  |
| The Cribbs Family       | In honor of our grandsons, Bodhi, Beckett, Nolan & Luke   |
| The Duffy Family        | In memory of Aunt Jill  |
| The Stella Family       | In memory of husband & father, Frank<br>In memory of our Parents & Grandparents, who are not forgotten  |

