



Brecksville

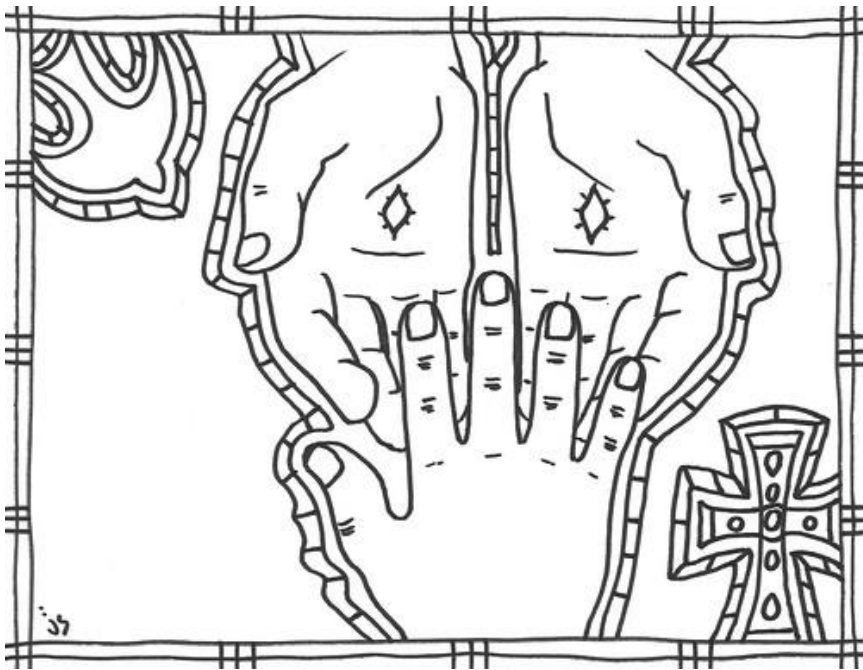
United Church of Christ

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

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

"Jesus returns
every time we
forgive ourselves
and others,
love unconditionally,
extend mercy,
offer compassion,
act with
loving-kindness,
feed the hungry,
protect the oppressed,
care for the sick,
visit the prisoner,
speak truth to power,
make peace,
seek reconciliation,
and pursue
restorative justice."

— Roger Wolsey



2nd Sunday of Easter - April 16th, 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!

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 16th, 2023

Prelude

All Heaven Declares

Noel and Tricia Richards

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

The reason why some people are so kind is because the world has been so unkind to them that they don't want other people to feel the way they did. – Vex King

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: God's strong and loving hands are outstretched to all Creation.

All: Let the world stretch forth and grasp God's hands with joy.

God's open hands are as the gate of righteousness.

Let us enter into God's abundant life and give thanks.

In God's hands are new life, strength, and salvation.

Let us be thankful and sing unto our God with gladness.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

#230

*** Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]**

O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love.

We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace.

Our week has left worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices, and unexpected disappointments. We are weary.

Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens as we empty our cares into your loving hands. Extend to us your joy. Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life! Pour into us the freshness of your new life; for you are our strength and our might. How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us. Amen!
Alleluia!

*** 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 2:14, 22-32 (The Inclusive Bible translation)**

Gospel Reading **John 20:19-31 (The Voice Translation)**

Continuing Testament by LR Knost

Time With Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen

Bojos

Refrain: Alleluia! Christ is arisen. Bright is the dawning of the Lord's day.

*1. Run, faithful women, to the graveside. Marvel, the stone is rolled away!
Hear from the angel, "He is risen." Christ goes before you all the way. (Refrain)*

*2. Rise, Magdalena, from your weeping; Christ stands before your very eyes.
Quickly return to the disciples; bear the good news: "He is alive." (Refrain)*

*3. Gather, disciples, in the evening: suddenly Christ your Lord appears.
"Look, it is I, your wounded Savior. Peace be with you, and do not fear. (Refrain)*

*4. Thomas, where are you on that evening? "I'll not believe unless I see."
Christ comes again, and every Lord's day: "Touch me and see; have faith in me." (Refrain)*

*(Music and Words: Luis Bojos, 1974; English translation Martin A. Seltz, 2000;
text and music © 2001 Luis Bojos, published by OCP)*

Sermon

Touching Christ

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

#256

(sung to hymn tune ST. ANNE)

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Suzanne Patrick, Russ King, John Toulas, Marilyn Pay, Caroline Chandler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Evelyn Seager, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dottie Matsuka, 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 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]**

From our hearts and from our hands,
we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you,
O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen! Alleluia!

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Now the Green Blade Rises*

#238

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.

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Lyrics: 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

Christ Is Alive

Bray

Announcements:

FREE CONCERT TODAY! Please join us at 4:00 pm today for the spring musical presentation by the Oberlin Jazz Quartet. The ensemble members include Max Kassoy on saxophone, Kamran Curlin on bass, Lyric Anderson on piano, and Martin Kent on drums. They will perform works by John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson and others! A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program, in Pilgrim Hall. 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".



Attendance on Sunday, April 9th, 2023 – Adults: 104; Kids: 17; Live Stream: 16; Total: 137

Readings

First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-32 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: “Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! People of Israel, hear this: Jesus of Nazareth was sent to you with miracles and signs as his credentials. As you saw, God did this through Jesus when he was among you. Jesus was delivered up for God’s purpose; you even made use of godless people to crucify and kill him. But God freed him from death’s bitter pangs and raised him up again! It was impossible for death to keep hold on Jesus.”

“As David wrote in the Psalms, ‘I have set our God ever before me; God is at my side, and I will not be disturbed. My heart is glad, my tongue rejoices, my body will live on in hope. For you will not abandon my soul, nor will you let your faithful one decay. You have shown me the paths of Life. You will fill me with joy in your presence.’ “

“Sisters and brothers, I can speak confidently to you about our ancestor David. David died and was buried, and his grave is with us to this day. But he was a prophet, and he knew that God had promised him that one of his descendants would sit upon his throne. So, what David was foreseeing and talking about was the resurrection of the Messiah: the one not abandoned to the underworld, whose body didn’t decay. God raised Jesus to life. We are all witnesses to that.”

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31 (The Voice Translation)

Mary Magdalene went directly from the tomb to Jesus’s disciples. She exclaimed, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she told them everything Jesus said to her.

On that same evening of Resurrection Sunday, the disciples gathered together behind locked doors in fear that some of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem were still searching for them. Out of nowhere, Jesus appeared in the center of the room. Jesus said, “Peace.”

As He was speaking, He revealed the wounds in His hands and side. The disciples began to celebrate as it sank in that they were really seeing the Lord. Jesus said again, “Peace. In the same way Abba God sent Me, I am now sending you.”

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

Now Jesus drew so close to each of them that they could feel His breath. Jesus breathed on them and said, “Welcome the Spirit of the living God. You now have the mantle of God’s forgiveness. As you go, you can share this life-giving power to forgive sins.”

Now, all of the eleven were present with the exception of Thomas. He heard their accounts of their interaction with Jesus. The Other Disciples told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas said, “Until I see His hands, feel the wounds of the nails, and put my hand to His side, I won’t believe what you are saying.”

Eight days later, they gathered again behind locked doors; and Jesus reappeared. But this time Thomas was with them. Jesus said, “Peace.” Then he approached Thomas. “Reach out and touch Me. See the punctures in My hands; reach out your hand, and put it into My side; leave behind your faithlessness, and believe.”

Thomas, filled with emotion, said, “You are the one True God and Lord of my life!”

Jesus answered: “Thomas, you have faith because you have seen Me. Blessed are all those who never see Me and yet they still believe.”

Jesus performed other wondrous signs that are not written in this book. These accounts are recorded so that you, too, might believe that Jesus is the Anointed, the Liberating King, the Son of God. Accept the life He came to share.

Continuing Testament – By LR Knost

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

Special Thanks:

APRIL 16, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Kate Matthews
Evelyn Seager

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley

Greeter: Sherrill Witt

Counters: Marge Culver
Jim Duffy

Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*

Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*

A/V Team: Betsey Wilson

Flowers: Sue Stenzel

Snack: *Volunteers Needed*

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*

APRIL 23, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson

Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Rose Kaval

Greeter: *Volunteer Needed*

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

Acolyte: *Volunteers Needed*

Peace Candle: *Volunteers Needed*

A/V Team: Fred Pedersen

Flowers: Julie Bernard

Snack: *Volunteers Needed*

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*

NOTES
