



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***

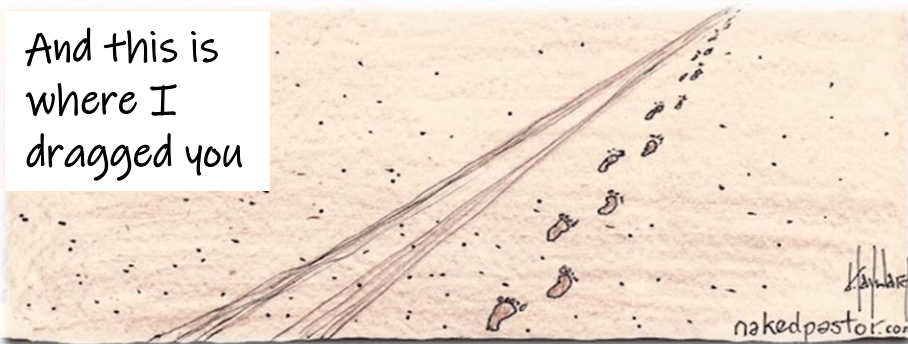
"We are
each other's
harvest;
we are
each other's
business;
we are
each other's
magnitude
and bond."

-- Gwendolyn Brooks,
20th century

This is where I
walked beside you



And this is
where I
dragged you



3rd Sunday of Easter - April 23rd, 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!

April 23rd, 2023
3rd Sunday of Easter

Prelude *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth*

Handel

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*"God is at home; it is we who have gone for a walk."
- Meister Eckhart, 14th century*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship:**

One: Like the disciples who met the risen Christ,

All: we come hoping for unexpected appearances of God's love.

One: We come with our questions and doubts, and listen for Christ to appear in our midst
saying:

All: "Peace be with you."

One: We hear the stories of God's love in the Scriptures,

All: and we know that God is still speaking!

One: We look around at our neighbors and guests, and see the power of the risen Christ
at work in their lives, offering peace, offering hope, offering courage.

All: We are witnesses to the miraculous love of Jesus! Come, let us worship!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O Day of Radiant Gladness

#66

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

Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,

We yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance.

Risen One, as we travel our own road to Emmaus, you walk with us,

Though you are often unnoticed and unrecognized.

As we walk with you, and hear your still-speaking voice,

Our hearts burn within us.

Teach us to share the hope and joy of your love,

so that those who hunger for spiritual nourishment

may be revived by our witness to your grace.

*** Pastor's Prayer**

*** 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, 36-42 (NRSV)**

Gospel Reading **Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)**

Continuing Testament by Dag Hammarskjöld



Time With Young Worshipers



Sermon

The Companion

Pastor John King

Anthem

Emmaus

Alonso

1. *As we journeyed on our way and remembered Christ our friend,
our eyes were slow to recognize, our hearts to comprehend.
Now a stranger at our side, we talked with him on the way
of all the things that happened that led us to this day.*

*Refrain: In the breaking of the bread we have known you, O Lord.
By your word have we been led to the breaking of the bread.*

2. *Then he opened up the Word of the prophets who had said,
"Your Savior first must suffer, then rise from the dead."*

*As our journey found its end and the dark of night drew near,
we told the stranger, "Stay with us till morning's light appears." (Refrain)*

*It was at table then we knew why our hearts were set ablaze:
This stranger was our brother arisen from the grave! (Refrain)*
(Words and Music: Tony E. Alonso, b. 1980; © 2007, GIA Publications, Inc.)

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Suzanne Patrick, Russ King, John Toula, Marilyn Pay, Caroline Chandler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Evelyn Seager, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson, 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]**

Life-Giving God, may you bless our gifts
and let them go forth from us
to benefit all of your children
with wisdom, compassion, and imagination. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

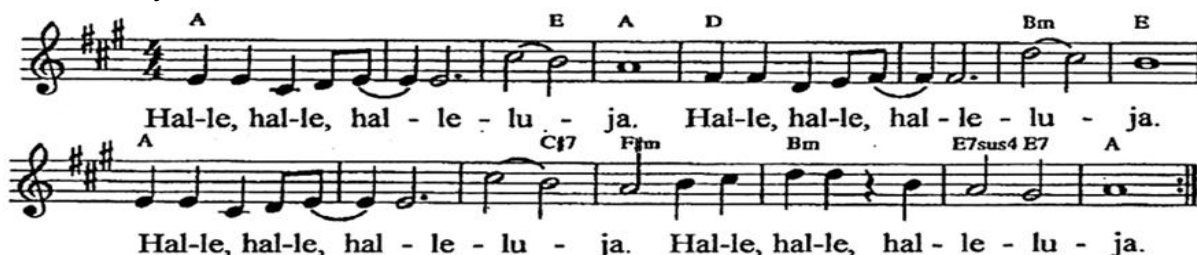
In the Midst of New Dimensions

#391

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.



* Benediction

Postlude

Eastertide Acclamation

Farrell

Be *Strong* and *Courageous*

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,

For the *Lord* your *God*

Will be with you wherever you go.

- Joshua 1:9

Announcements:

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has adopted a letter for the commons entrance signage. We accomplished our goal of 31 letters @ \$75 each. If you have not yet contributed for your letter, please mail or drop off your check at the office as soon as possible, so the Facilities Ministry can arrange the installation.



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.

Attendance on Sunday, April 16th, 2023 – Adults: 50; Kids: 12; Live Stream: 8; Total: 70

Readings

First Reading

Acts 2:14, 36-42 (NRSV)

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "What should we do?"

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls."

And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Gospel Reading

Second Lesson: Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?"

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Readings

Continuing Testament – From *Markings*, by Dag Hammarskjöld

When you have reached the point where you no longer expect a response, you will at last be able to give in such a way that the other is able to receive and be grateful.

When Love has matured and, through a dissolution of the self into light, become a radiance, then shall the Lover be liberated from dependence upon the Beloved, and the Beloved also be made perfect by being liberated from the Lover.

You wake from dreams of doom and - for a moment - you know: beyond all the noise and the gestures, the only real thing, love's calm unwavering flame in the half-light of an early dawn.

Never, for the sake of peace and quiet, deny your own experience or convictions.

In the point of rest at the center of our being, we encounter a world where all things are at rest in the same way. Then a tree becomes a mystery, a cloud a revelation, each person a cosmos of whose riches we can only catch glimpses. The life of simplicity is simple, but it opens to us a book in which we never get beyond the first syllable.

The longest journey is the journey inward.

Special Thanks:

APRIL 23, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Pat Rolfe
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: ***Volunteers Needed***
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



APRIL 30, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Heidi Spangler
Pat Rolfe
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Snack: ***Volunteers Needed***
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

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