



Brecksville

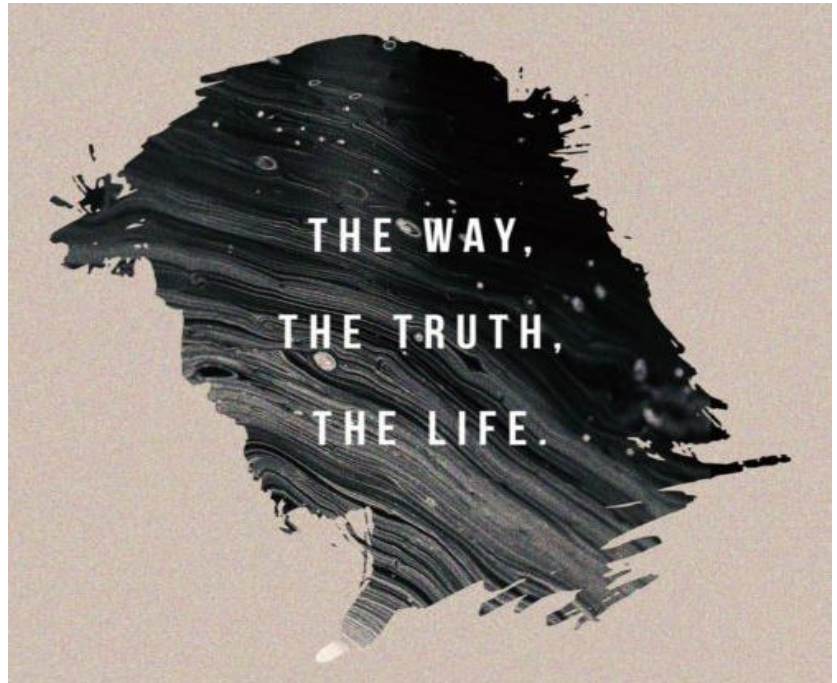
United Church of Christ

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

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

"The world is
round and
the place which
may seem like
the end
may also be
the beginning."

- Ivy Baker Priest



5TH Sunday of Easter - May 7TH, 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!

May 7TH, 2023
5TH Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Trumpet Tune on Stuttgart

Cattaneo

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*“The sea throws rock together, but time leaves us polished stones.”
– Ordinary Love, by U2*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Within each of our lives there is a longing for community
and the Presence of God.

People: Sometimes we worry that we will walk alone, unnoticed and afraid.

Leader: Jesus tells us that he goes before us to prepare a place for us -
there is plenty of room in God's dwelling place.

People: Where the Spirit dwells, there is room for all.

Leader: May the ever-present love of God be with you.

People: And may the joy of Christ surround you.

Leader: May we know the presence of the Spirit,
as we gather in this community of peace,
continuing to share the cost of discipleship
with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

*** Hymn of Praise**

You Are the Way

#40

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

**How many ways You have cared for us, O God; how many companions You have
given to share our difficult and joyous journey.**

**Teach us to love as You have loved us, to embrace and welcome others, as You
have welcomed us, to enjoy and commit to the family which You have given for our
comfort and nurture.**

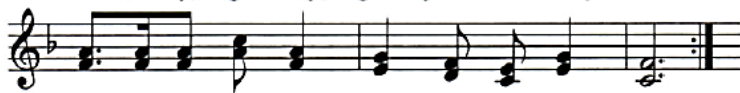
* Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be



peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **1 Peter 2:2-10 (The Voice translation)**

Gospel Reading **John 14: 1-6 (The Inclusive Bible translation)**

Continuing Testament from Jennifer Lasky, the director of Edna House



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

Way, Truth, and Life

Daigle

*1. Make us a way worth walking, pilgrim people in motion,
A road that leads to wisdom, calling each to the journey.*

Oh, make us a path to peace, that the whole world might sing together.

*Refrain: You are the way, you are the truth, God of all life, send your wisdom among us.
Show us the way, teach us the truth, give us your life, fill the earth with your Spirit.*

*2. Make us a truth worth seeking, people full of compassion,
Who live the word we're speaking, living Christ in our bodies.*

Oh, give us integrity, so our deeds shine with gospel glory. (Refrain)

Right before us we see death and life, come and make us your Christ, Oh, help us all choose life!

*3. Make us a life worth living, full of vision and courage,
A people kind and giving, bound for freedom and justice.*

Oh, make us your church at last, one with you, one in Christ our Savior. (Refrain)

(Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952; tune: Gary Daigle, b. 1957; © 1999, GIA Publications, Inc.)

Sermon by Pastor John King

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Suzanne Patrick, The Friends & Family of John Toula, Russ King, 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

*** Call to Offering**

*** 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.**

*** Offertory Dedication**

God, bless these tithes and offerings, that they may heal and make whole the lives of all your children. And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace and justice in the house of your creation. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

#329



Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Eternal God,

**you have called your people
from east and west
and north and south
to feast at the table of Jesus Christ.**

**We thank you for Christ's presence
and for the spiritual food
of Christ's body and blood.**

**By the power of your Holy Spirit,
keep us faithful to your will.**

**Go with us to the streets, to our homes,
and to our places of labor and leisure
that whether we are gathered or scattered,
we may be the servant church
of the servant Christ,
in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

#493



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

Send Me Forth

Hoffman

BE STRONG, DO NOT FEAR;

*your God will
come.*

Isaiah 35:4

Announcements:

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Maureen Stanley and Terry Heiman, "In loving memory of our mothers, Beverly Heiman and Edna Stanley."

EDNA HOUSE - BUCC and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) will be taking a special offering TODAY, to benefit Edna House in Cleveland. The mission of Edna House is to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, and to give them a chance at a new life by providing a safe, sober place to live.

Edna House is independent of government funding and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities that they serve. Jennifer Lasky, the director of Edna House, will be giving a short presentation during this morning's service, immediately followed by the offering for them.

In addition to cash donations - which are always appreciated - the current and ongoing need is for donations of coffee, powdered creamer, packets of sugar/sweet-n-low and tea bags. Please consider contributing to this amazing organization and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Attendance on Sunday, April 30th, 2023 – Adults: 58; Kids: 7; Live Stream: 9; Total: 74

Readings

First Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10 (The Voice translation)

Get rid of hatefulfulness and deception, of insincerity and jealousy and slander. Be like newborn babies, crying out for spiritual milk that will help you grow into salvation if you have tasted *and found* the Lord to be good.

Come to Him - the living stone - who was rejected by people but *accepted* by God as chosen and precious. Like living stones, let yourselves be assembled into a spiritual house, a holy order of priests who offer up spiritual sacrifices that will be acceptable to God through Jesus the Anointed. For it says in the words of *the prophet Isaiah*,

“See here - I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone, chosen and precious;
Whoever depends upon Him will never be disgraced.”

To you who believe *and depend on Him*, He is precious; but to you who don't, *remember the words of the psalmist*:

“The stone that the builders rejected has been laid as the cornerstone - the very stone *that holds together the entire foundation*,”

and of *Isaiah*:

“A stone that blocks their way, a rock that trips them.”

They stumble because they don't follow the word of God, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, *set aside to be* a royal order of priests, a holy nation, God's own; so that you may proclaim the wondrous acts of the One who called you out of *inky* darkness into shimmering light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received it.

Gospel Reading

John 14: 1-6 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

The night before he died, Jesus said, “Don't let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am there you may be as well. You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

Thomas replied, “But we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I myself am the Way - I am Truth, and I am Life.”

Continuing Testament – By Jennifer Lasky, Director of Edna House

Special Thanks:

MAY 7, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Snack: Shelley Novotney
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Shelley Novotney
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Jon Langham
Kathy Pastor



MAY 14, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Carole Snider
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Pat Rolfe
Counters: Marge Culver
Jim Duffy
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Jon Thompson
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

NOTES
