



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***

"I believe the
choice to become
a mother
is the choice
to become one of
the greatest
spiritual teachers
there is."

- Oprah Winfrey



6TH Sunday of Easter - May 14TH, 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 14TH, 2023
6TH Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Pastorale

C. Wesley

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"We are born of love; love is our mother." - Rumi

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:** *(based on Psalm 131)*

One: We gather before you, O Eternal One.

All: We gather humbly.

One: We do not gather with grandiosity or matters beyond our grasp.

All: We gather here to rest in blessed assurance.

One: Before you, O God, my soul becomes calm, quiet, and contented in You.

All: Like a little child resting upon its mother, with you, O God, my soul is still.

One: We gather, trusting in you, O God, like a little child on a mother's lap. There we are still; we are at peace.

All: My soul is like that mother's beloved child – content to trust completely in your eternal love, O God.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Faith of Our Mothers

1. Faith of our mothers, living still,
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air:

Refrain: Faith of our mothers, living faith! We will be true to thee always.

2. Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler peace. (Refrain)

3. Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
Is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds. (Refrain)

(Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888 or James G. Walton, 1821-1905; words: Arthur B. Patten, 1920)

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

Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for being with us today and always. You have gathered us here to celebrate you - our Creator, our Mother, our Father - with the gift of your Holy Spirit. Let our worship be all about you as we humbly pray for the Holy Spirit to keep our hearts, minds, and souls in tune with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

*** 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 **Ps 131 (Psalms Anew – In Inclusive Language)**

Gospel Reading **John 14:15-20 (The Inclusive Bible translation)**

Continuing Testament by Karen Sandstrom



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

The First of All Commandments

Schubert, arr. Debick

1. A scribe asked Jesus, "Which is the first of all commandments?"

Christ answered, "Hear, O Israel: our God is God alone!

You shall love the Lord God with all your heart and soul, mind and strength.

And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

There is no greater commandment than these."

2. Beloved, let us love one another as God loves us.

Whoever does not love does not know God.

God sent the Son to the world that we might live through him.

For God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God dwells in them.

(Music: An die Musik by Franz Schubert, 1797-1828, arr. D. Debick; words: Mark 12: 28-31; 1 Jn 4: 7, 8, 11, 16)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

#351

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Suzanne Patrick, 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**

May these gifts be our testimony of our faithfulness to you, Abiding God, even as we offer to you all that we are and all that we have for your glory, honor, and praise. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Now Thank We All Our God

#419



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 score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

* Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in D Major

Handel



Announcements:

HOLY GROUNDS - Pastor John will not be at his regularly scheduled meeting time on Tuesday morning, May 18, at the Brecksville Panera.

CLEVELAND PRIDE MARCH – BUCC is participating in the 2023 Cleveland Pride March, on Saturday, June 3rd. If you would like to participate, we are gathering at Public Square (downtown) at 10am. It's an approximately 20-minute walk to Malls B & C.

We won't be carrying individual signs this year, but we can wave as many flags as we're able! The march is followed by a festival with a multitude of vendors, from 11am - 6pm at Malls B & C. See Allison Colbert if you have any questions, and more information is available at <https://lgbtcleveland.org/pride/>. This event is always so positive, uplifting, and *fabulous*, so come downtown and ENJOY!!!

Cover art by Karen Sandstrom

Attendance on Sunday, May 7th, 2023 – Adults: 65; Kids: 8; Live Stream: ?; Total: 73?

Readings

First Reading

Psalms 131 (from Psalms Anew: In Inclusive Language)

Yahweh, my heart has no false pride;
My eyes do not look too high.
I am not concerned with great affairs
Or things far above me.
It is enough for me to keep my soul still and quiet
Like a child in its mother's arms,
As content as a child that has been weaned.
Israel, hope in Yahweh,
Now and for always!

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-20 (adapted from The Inclusive Bible translation)

If you love me and obey the command I give you, [to love one another] I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept. The world neither sees nor recognizes the Spirit. But you can recognize the Spirit who remains with you and will be within you.

I won't leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you'll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you'll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Readings

Continuing Testament – “National Debt”, by Karen Sandstrom



Bless me, Mother, for I have
sinned. I never grieved
the nightclub.
Or the high schools,
churches or supermarkets,
the colleges or theaters,
the shopping malls or
the country music concert.



Forgive me. Even for
Uvalde I hardly wept.
Today and every day is
December 14, 2012,
soul split wide for the 26.
Such small faces.



And those women.



Someone decided
not to honor them.
Decided to leave the bill
unpaid and accept the
compound interest



nightclub and high school,
church and supermarket,
college and theater
concert and mall.
Uvalde. Someone decided.



I am so sorry.

Special Thanks:



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: *Volunteers Needed*

Set Up/Serve: Carol Miller
Betsey Wilson

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*

MAY 21, 2023

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Carole Snider

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan

Greeter: Kathy Pastor

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V Team: David Pastor

Flowers: Gina Cook

Snack: *Volunteers Needed*

Set Up/Serve: Casey Oliver
Kathy Pastor

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*



NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.