



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***

“Out of suffering
have emerged the
strongest souls;
the most massive
characters are
seared with scars.”

- Kahlil Gibran.



7TH Sunday of Easter - May 21st, 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 21st, 2023 - Ascension Sunday

Prelude

Be Lifted High

Blakesly/Maher

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

“Love is never wasted, for its value does not depend on reciprocity.”

-C.S. Lewis

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:** *(based on Psalm 68)*

One: Let us shout for joy to God who rides upon the clouds!

All: We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God, before whom the earth quakes, and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!

One: God is Sovereign over the earth, Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans; God creates families for those who are alone.

All: God leads captives to freedom and breaks the yoke of oppression.

One: God goes forth before the people, marching through the wilderness of their lives, bringing forth restoration and justice.

All: Sing praise to God, Rider of the ancient skies, who dwells in holiness.

One: Proclaim the power of God!

All: O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary! You give power and strength to your people.

One: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

#260

(sung to hymn tune LLANFAIR)

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

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you. We respond to your invitation that you might dwell with us and that we might dwell with you. Enfold us in your presence and fill us again with holy awe and mystery. 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 **Luke 24:44-53 (The Inclusive Bible translation)**

Gospel Reading **Acts 1:1-11 (The Message translation)**

Continuing Testament by Ada Limon, U.S. Poet Laureate



Youth Anthem

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African American spiritual

1. *Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

Refrain: In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. *Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.* *Refrain: In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

3. *Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

Refrain: In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.



Time With Young Worshipers



Anthem

Psalm 133 (Unity)

Mottershead

*Refrain: Behold how good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity,
O how good and blessed it is when we're together,
like precious oil upon the head,
like the dew as it falls on the mountain, God's blessing flows.
O how good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity,
with life forevermore, with God forevermore,
with life forevermore, with You forevermore.*

*So why do we fight so much when You've already fought for us?
So why don't we fight for love? To be one as You are one.
So why do we go to war when You've already won us at the cross?
So now let us fight for love, to be one as You are one;
souls are won as we are one, so make us one as You are one. (Refrain)*
(Music: Thomas Mottershead; words: Mottershead, based in part on Psalm 133)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

#304

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Suzanne Patrick, Russ King, Marilyn Pay, 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**

Ever-present and loving God, in faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to you. Bless and multiply them to meet the needs of your beloved ones. Inspire each of us to live as Christ's witnesses, today and ever more. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

#257

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 treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E for the first line, and A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A for the second line.

*** Benediction**

| | | |
|----------|----------------|-------------|
| Postlude | <i>Toccata</i> | Cernohorsky |
|----------|----------------|-------------|

Announcements:

COMMUNION – We will return to BUCC's pre-COVID practice of celebrating Communion twice a month. This will begin in June and will happen on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Special thanks to Gayle Colbert, for so generously agreeing to prepare Communion for us (with the help of Allison Colbert), now twice as often.

NURSERY ATTENDANT – If you brought someone with you today who is age 3 or under, and you think they'd prefer playtime over Sunday service, we've got you covered! We will ask if your child has any allergies or special needs, and then keep them safe and entertained at no cost to you. Miss Mindy or one of the ushers would be happy to show you the space and introduce you to Mickey, our nursery staffer.

LET'S GET GROWING!! The Stewardship Ministry invites those of you who plant a garden of vegetables, fruits, or flowers to plant some extra this spring and summer. If you're already doing all the work, just do a little more to help out BUCC. Whenever your harvest comes in, we will make a table available on Sundays after church to sell whatever you bring in. All of the funds will go to the General Fund to help bring down the deficit.

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.

They aren't permitting individual signs this year, but we can wave as many flags as we can carry! 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!!!

PRIDE IS COMING TO BRECKSVILLE/BROADVIEW HTS.! – On Saturday, June 10th, BUCC will have a table at the first annual BBH Pride Fest! The event runs from 11:30am - 4:30pm – please see the announcement on the bulletin board in the lobby (by the sliding glass windows) for more information. We need at least 2 people to represent BUCC at our table, so please consider signing up for a time slot, and the more the merrier!

Attendance on Sunday, May 14th, 2023 – Adults: 72; Kids: 9; Live Stream: 5; Total: 86

Readings

First Reading

Luke 24:44-53 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Then Jesus said the disciples, “Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the psalms had to be fulfilled.”

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, “That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah’s name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this.”

“Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high.”

Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands blessed the disciples. While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven. The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They were found in the Temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

Gospel Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (The Message translation)

Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles, the ones he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but “must wait for what God promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon.”

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

When they were together for the last time they asked, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”

He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. The timing is God’s. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes!

They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

Continuing Testament – “Instructions on Not Giving Up”, by Ada Limon

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out
of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor’s
almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving
their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate
sky of Spring rains, it’s the greening of the trees
that really gets to me. When all the shock of white
and taffy, the world’s baubles and trinkets, leave
the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath,
the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin
growing over whatever winter did to us, a return
to the strange idea of continuous living despite
the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then,
I’ll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf
unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I’ll take it all.

Special Thanks:



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: Lois Lorenzo

Set Up/Serve: Casey Oliver
Kathy Pastor

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*

MAY 28, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan

Ushers: Pat Rolfe
Evelyn Seager

Lay Reader: Rose Kaval

Greeter: *Volunteer Needed*

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*

Flowers: Tia Began

Snack: *Volunteers Needed*

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*



NOTES
