



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 mind is
not a vessel
to be filled
but a fire
to be kindled."

-- Plutarch



8TH Sunday of Easter - May 28th, 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 28th, 2023 - Pentecost Sunday

Prelude *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

Cutts

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

“One loving heart sets another on fire.”
— Saint Augustine

Meditation Prelude *Veni Sancte Spiritus (Holy Spirit, Come to us)* Berthier
(Taizé Community)

The image shows a musical score for the 'Meditation Prelude' 'Veni Sancte Spiritus'. It is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 8/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.' The score is marked with 'pp' (pianissimo) at the beginning.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:**

Reader: People of the living God. On this day of Pentecost, rise up in shouts of song. Though we are scattered at this time, the Spirit poured out on Pentecost joins us as one.

People: The Spirit of God is moving among us, offering healing, power, and wholeness.

Reader: Let us open our hearts and minds to receive the Holy Spirit, who speaks with our spirit to tell us that we are all Children of God.

People: On that day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God gave those fearful disciples a new voice. May that same Spirit give us new voice, to speak boldly in new words and new ways.

Reader: God's Spirit is present, is here, and is for all people and for all time. God's Spirit spreads among all who would share it, bringing with it new dreams, mighty visions, amazing actions.

People: The Spirit brings healing and wholeness, offers peace and hope, grants renewal and strength. So let us receive the Spirit. Let us open our hearts and receive the One Jesus promised the Advocate, the Comforter, the Consoler, the Helper. Let us receive the Holy Spirit, and may our hearts be set on fire. May we let God's Spirit enter us, change us, fill us, and use us.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
(sung to hymn tune WEBB)

#272

*** Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]?? *THERE ISN'T ONE??***

Spirit of life and wholeness who touches us both in the inner silence
and in the pain of the world
fill our minds with wonder our hearts with compassion
and our whole being with fire of your Spirit,
that our worship may enlighten, empower and transform us.
Set our hearts on fire with a love for God and God's creation.
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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **Acts 2:1-18 (NRSV)**

Gospel Reading **John 3:1-8 (NRSV)**

Continuing Testament by Richard Rohr



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

O Breath of Life

Choplin

*O breath of life, come sweeping thro', revive your church with life and pow'r;
O breath of life, come cleanse renew, prepare our lives to meet this hour.
O breath of love, come breathe within, renewing mind and will and heart;
Come, love of Christ, teach us to love, revive your church in every part.
Revive! Revive! Revive!*

*O wind of God, move through your church, come bend and break as to your will;
Then by your tenderness remold, that as you break us, come remake us,
remake us as your own.*

*O heart of Christ, broken for us, in you we find our strength and rest;
Receive our hearts, broken and weak, and let your waiting church be blest.
Revive us, Lord, why are we still, while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world awaits; raise up your church to spread the light!
O breath of life, O breath of love, O wind of God, breathe within our hearts.*

(Music: Pepper Choplin, b. 1957; words: Bessie Porter Head, 1850-1936, alt. Choplin; © 1999 EverGreen Morning Press)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Spirit of the Living God

#283

The Church at Prayer

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

We delight in your Creation, Loving God.
We rejoice in your hopes, visions and dreams.
In a spirit of thanksgiving,
we ask that you give us the courage
To strengthen your Church in the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

#57

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 music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

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

Loving Spirit

Dell



Announcements:

CLEVELAND PRIDE MARCH – BUCC is participating in the 2023 Cleveland Pride March, this 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.

See Allison Colbert if you have any questions, and more information is available at <https://lgbtcleveland.org/pride/>.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH – Next Sunday, June 4th, our OCWM ministry (Our Church's Wider Mission) will collect a special offering called "Strengthen the Church". This effort reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

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!

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 – If you brought someone with you today who is age 3 or younger, 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 attendant.

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.

Readings

First Reading

Acts 2:1-18 (NRSV)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Readings

Gospel Reading **John 3:1-8 (NRSV)**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish people. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the reign of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Continuing Testament – By Richard Rohr

The "Christ Mystery" is much bigger than Christianity as an organized religion. If we don't understand this, Christians will have little ability to make friends with, build bridges to, understand, or respect other religions or the planet.

Jesus did not come to create a country club or a tribe of people who could say, "We're in and you're out. We've the truth and you don't." Jesus came to reveal something that was true everywhere, for everyone, and all the time.

Special Thanks:



MAY 28, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Pat Rolfe
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Volunteer Needed
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Tia Began
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Jon Thompson
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

JUNE 4, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



NOTES
