



# 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***

"Courage is  
knowing  
it might hurt,  
and doing it  
anyway.  
Stupidity is  
the same.  
And that's why  
life is hard."

- Jeremy Goldberg



"Go and  
learn what  
this means,  
'I desire  
MERCY,  
not  
sacrifice.'"  
-Matthew 9:13

**Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Prelude**

*Here, Savior, in this Quiet Place*

Cutts

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward**

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*"Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face?*

*Did I say words of healing? Did I love?*

*These are the real questions."* -- Henri Nouwen

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## ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

### **\* Call to Worship:**

Reader: In our diversity, we gather as one community of disciples.

**People: We gather today to be refreshed, renewed, and strengthened in our faith and in our resolve for the work we do together.**

Reader: Listen, there is a voice calling us.

**People: It is the voice of our Divine Beloved.**

Reader: The one who loves us invites us to join our voices together.

**People: We call out in prayer and praise and praxis together.**

Reader: Bring our hopes, expectations, and longings that we have carried throughout the week.

**People: Here they are. We speak them in our spirit and with our words.**

Reader: Come in thanksgiving. Come and pray.

**People: We enter into this sacred time.**

**\* Hymn of Praise**

***What a Covenant***

#471

## \* Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]

Divine Beloved, we acknowledge that it is hard to see ourselves as you see us. Open our eyes to see your vision for us and our world. A vision of sacred compassion, a vision of holy justice. Divine Beloved, we enter into your sanctuary seeking wholeness and grace. You call us to walk with you. We approach you with hope and hesitation, hoping that an encounter with your presence might restore us, heal us, guide us and raise us up. We pray in Jesus' name. 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 **Psalm 27** (Translation: Psalms Anew in Inclusive Language)

Gospel Reading **Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26** (NRSVUE)

Continuing Testament by Fasano



*Time With Young Worshippers*



**Musical Offering**

***Colossus***

Claire Esser, flute

Clark

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Musical Reflection**

***There Was Jesus by the Water***

Edwards

Jon Thompson, vocals

## ***The Church at Prayer***

The Family & Friends of Al Klonowski, Russ King, Marilyn Pay, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson, Rose Kaval, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, 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.

**\* Dedication of Offering: [UNISON]**

We are all one human family. In your love you created us. Through your grace you reach out to us. You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time. Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love. Teach us to weave our lives together. We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good. In this way, each day, we begin again in love.

## ***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure**     *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#82

**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, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

***Bless God, O My Soul***

Morris

# *Announcements:*

**HUNGER MEAL** – The next Hunger Meal is scheduled for next Sunday, June 18, from 3:00pm - 6:00pm. This time around, it's happening at the Iglesia Emmanuel, located at 3388 W. 41st St., Cleveland, 44109. If you are interested in helping out, please let us know - we will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**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.

**MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION** - Carol will not be leading meditation during the month of June. Gatherings will resume in July, on Wednesdays at 11 am. The group may still meet in June to practice informally - check with Sherrill Witt for details.

**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

#### **Psalm 27 (Translation: Psalms Anew in Inclusive Language)**

God, you are my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
You are the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of you, Yahweh, this I seek: to dwell in your house all the days of my life, to behold your beauty and to contemplate on your Temple. For you will hide me in your shelter in the day of trouble, you will conceal me under the cover of your tent and will set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies on every side. I will offer in your tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to you.

Hear me when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to you, "Your face I do seek."

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off. Do not forsake me! O God of my salvation!

Though my father and my mother forsake me, you will still accept me. Teach me your way, O God, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Give me not up to the will of my foes, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of Yahweh in the land of the living!  
Wait for Yahweh; be strong and let your heart take courage. Yes, wait for God!

## Readings

### Gospel Reading

#### Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 (NRSVUE)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Suddenly a leader came in and knelt before Jesus, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment.

When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

### Continuing Testament – By Joseph Fasano

#### For a Student Who Used A.I. to Write a Paper

Now I let it fall back  
in the grasses.  
I hear you. I know  
This life is hard now.  
I know your days are precious  
on this earth.  
But what are you trying to be free of?  
The living? The miraculous task of it?  
Love is for the ones who love the work.

# Special Thanks:



## JUNE 11, 2023

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley

**Ushers:** Pat Rolfe  
Evelyn Seager

**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan

**Greeter:** Jon Thompson

**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Jim Duffy

**A/V Team:** Annette Pedersen

**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel

**Set Up/Serve:** *Volunteers Needed*

**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*

## JUNE 18, 2023

**Head Usher:** *Volunteer Needed*

**Ushers:** Allison Colbert  
Evelyn Seager

**Lay Reader:** Michelle Rogers

**Greeter:** Carol Miller

**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz

**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen

**Flowers:** Janet Renovetz

**Set Up/Serve:** *Volunteers Needed*

**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*



# NOTES

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