



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*

"If you are not personally free to be yourself in that most important of human activities - the expression of love - then life itself loses its meaning."

- Harvey Milk



"The Truth will
set
you
FREE."

- John 8:32

3rd Sunday after Pentecost, June 18th, 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!

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18th, 2023

Prelude

My Soul Overflows with Praise
With Percussion Group

Alfredo Colom M.

Welcome & Announcements

Meditation Music Prayer:

Gracious Holy One, inspire us to help those who need it feel welcomed, included, listened to, valued, supported and loved - even as You have done so for us. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Prayer:** *(based on Psalm 42)*

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams of water, our souls reach out to seek our Holy Source.

Many: Where is the Holy One? In the cleansing of the rain, in the refreshing of a pool, in the flow of a faucet.

One: With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, our voices lift toward our Creator.

Many: Where is the Holy One? In the melody of voices raised in concert, in the stillness of silence, in the cacophony of spontaneous praise.

One: As deep calls to deep, we come to worship the Living Source of all Life.

Many: Where is the Sacred One? In the echoes of our prayers, in the reverence of bowed heads, in the hope of raised faces. The Holy One is with us all!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

#73

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

Holy Wisdom, we hear you calling us to gather and to hope in your name. Ignite sacred courage in us to proclaim the good news of justice, from the comfort of the sanctuary to the public witness of the city gates. Inspire a compelling vision of a gracious, beloved, and empowered community, that propels us to confront inequities, challenge privilege, and participate in your creative work in our time. Renew our hope for humanity so that we might rejoice in a compassionate world and delight in our siblings. 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)

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 58:6-11

New Testament Reading - John 8:28-36

Continuing Testament by William Barber, II



Time With Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

Plead the Blood

Composers: Pappas/Lake/Davenport/Carnes/Barrett
Craig Ramsey, vocalist, guitarist

Sermon

Free to Be

by Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

O for a World

#575

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.

* Offertory Dedication: [UNISON]

We give you thanks, Gracious Holy One, for the abundance of the gifts you have planted in us as seeds that we may share in bloom. May these offerings be received and magnified for your glory. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Music

Seraphic Hymn

Howard

Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]

We give thanks, Gracious Holy One, that you have refreshed us at your table by filling us with your Divine Presence. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Teacher, Liberator and Friend. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

#4

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. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

* Benediction

Postlude

God Is at Your Right Hand

Diemer



Announcements:

MANY THANKS to Dave Shackle, who is filling in for Pastor John today.

FLOWERS – Today's flowers are provided by Jane and Cliff Cribbs and dedicated "In honor of all fathers and in celebration of our 58th anniversary."

HUNGER MEAL – The next Hunger Meal is scheduled for today, from 3:00pm - 6:00pm. 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.

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.

Attendance on Sunday, June 11th, 2023 – Adults: 49; Kids: 5; Live Stream: 12; Total: 66

Readings

Old Testament Reading **Isiah 58:6-11**

The Holy One proclaims, "Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Holy One will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Holy One will answer; you will cry for help and the Righteous One will say 'Here am I' "

New Testament Reading From the Gospel according to **John 8:28-36**

Jesus said, "When you have lifted-up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am and that I do nothing on my own but speak only what my Heavenly Parent has taught me. The One who sent me is with me and has not left me alone, for I will always do what is pleasing to the Holy One." Even as Jesus spoke, many put their faith in him.

To those who believed in him Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you really are my followers. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we will be set free?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth - everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a child belongs to it forever. So, if the Child of the Holy One sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Continuing Testament – By William Barber, the founding director of the Center for Public Theology & Public Policy at Yale Divinity School

The point of Juneteenth is that, even when the President of United States proclaimed freedom, some people didn't get the memo. The system of racism was determined to hold on to power as long as possible. When we see efforts today to overturn democratic elections, suppress votes, block living wages, refuse just immigration and gun reform, and perpetuate mass incarceration, it's clear that some people still haven't received the memo. In the face of their obstinance, we must learn from those who worked following Juneteenth, to determine what it would look like for the promise of freedom to be made real for them.

Special Thanks:

JUNE 18, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



JUNE 25, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***