



# Brecksville

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# 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***

“Maybe there  
is a beast...  
maybe it's  
only us.”

— William Golding,  
*Lord of the Flies*



God's  
EYE is  
ON THE  
SPARROW

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, June 25<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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# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Prelude** *Morning Glory, Starlit Sky*

D. H. Sheets

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

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*"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear." — Rosa Parks*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* Call to Prayer:** *(inspired by Genesis 21 and the Summer Solstice)*

One: The sun shines more brightly. Its warmth stays with us for so many more hours.

**All: So we shake free of our routines.**

One: We set out on an unknown path: Hoping God will open our eyes - Praying God will make us worthy - Wanting to grow with God.

**All: Let us grow together in the ways of our God.**

**\* Hymn of Praise** *God Is Truly with Us*

#68

**\* Prayer of Invocation:** [UNISON] *(inspired by Psalm 86)*

O God, you do great and wonderful things. May your Spirit move within us as we gather for this hour of prayer. Walk with us through the wilderness, lead us to your promised land. Help us to grow in your love.

**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 - Jeremiah 20:7-9 (NRSV)

New Testament Reading - Matthew 10:26-39 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament Matthew 10:26-39 (The Message translation)



### ***Time With Young Worshipers***



**Musical Offering**

***The Spacious Firmament on High***

F. J. Haydn

Erin Tomlinson, flute

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

***God's Eye is on the Sparrow***

#475

### ***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***

**\* Invitation to the 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 Prayer: [UNISON]**

Grow these gifts in your love, Wild God. Bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love, to make us worthy of your work in this world. Fill these gifts and each of us with your goodness. Amen.

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

**\* Hymn of Departure**

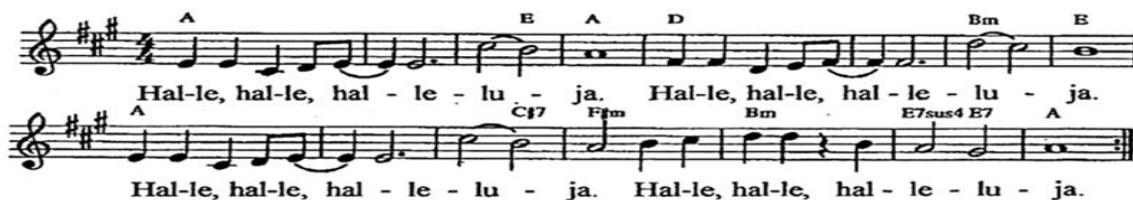
*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

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### **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.*



**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

***O God of Love***

Gawthorn/S. Wesley



## ***Announcements:***

**FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are dedicated by Anne Melfo, "In honor of my grandparents, Micheline Caroselli and Carmen Melfo."

**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 proceeds will go to the General Fund, to help bring down the deficit.

## Readings

### **Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah 20:7-9 (The Inclusive Bible)**

You fooled me, YHWH, and I let myself be fooled. You were too strong for me, and you triumphed.

All day long, I am an object of laughter. Everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I must cry out, proclaiming violence and desolation. The word of YHWH has brought me derision and reproach all day long. I say to myself, "I will not mention God, nor will I speak in the Name of YHWH anymore."

But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

### **New Testament Reading - Matthew 10:24-39 (NRSVUE)**

Jesus said, "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Creator. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Creator in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Creator in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

## Readings

### **Continuing Testament - Matthew 10:24-39 (The Message translation)**

"A student doesn't get a better desk than her teacher. A laborer doesn't make more money than his boss. Be content—pleased, even—when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, 'Dungface,' what can the workers expect?

"Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are. So don't hesitate to go public now.

"Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in loving care.

"What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do. God pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries.

"Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Abba-God in heaven. If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you?

"Don't think I've come to make life cozy. I've come to cut—make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies.

If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me. If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me."

# Special Thanks:

## JUNE 25, 2023

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



## JULY 2, 2023

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Allison Colbert  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Diane Gressley  
**Greeter:** Annette Pedersen  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Snack:** Kathy Ford  
**Set Up/Serve:** Kathy Ford  
**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*