



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***

"A free person
has many
dreams. An
unfree person
has only one
dream."

- Masud Gharahkhani,
President of
Norway's Storting
(Parliament)

WE ARE
ALL
MEMBERS
of ONE HUMAN RACE



5th Sunday after Pentecost, July 2nd, 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!

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 2nd, 2023

Prelude

Lord, You Have the Words of Everlasting Life

Archer

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."
- Bishop Desmond Tutu

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Prayer:**

One: O Sing to God a song of joy,

Many: For we have been greeted by our God.

One: O sing for God a song of love,

Many: For we have been embraced by our God.

One: O Create for God a portrait of hope,

Many: For we have been inspired by our God.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

#22

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

You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, ready to welcome us we respond to your call. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors, enter your Realm, and hold those doors open for others. 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 - 1 Samuel 4:1–11

New Testament Reading - Mark 10:35-40, 46-52

Continuing Testament by Garth Brooks



***Time With Young
Worshippers***



Musical Offering

Here I Am, Lord

Schutte, arr. Michael Stephens

Lauren Stephens, flute

Alyssa Stephens, alto saxophone

Chelsea Stephens, trumpet

Michael Stephens, clarinet

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

(Music: Dan Schutte, SJ, Copyright 1983 Daniel L. Schutte and North American Liturgy Resources;
words: Dan Schutte SJ, based on Isaiah 6)

Sermon by Pastor Leroy Ford

The Church at Prayer

Marilyn Pay, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Russ King, 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]**

Spirit of God, when we share, we open our hearts to your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbors who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When we welcome the prophet who shares your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. Bless all gifts as they build your Realm here on earth. Amen.

Communion

Communion Music

Andante con espressione from Sonata No. 8

Mozart

Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence, in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

God Our Author and Creator

#530

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

Trust in the Steadfast Love of God

Marshall

Announcements:

MANY THANKS to Leroy Ford, who is filling in for Pastor John today.

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS to our musicians this morning, who are in town visiting their parents and grandparents, Annette and Fred Pedersen. Lauren Stephens is playing the flute, Alyssa Stephens is playing the Alto saxophone, Chelsea Stephens is playing the trumpet, and Michael Stephens is playing the clarinet.

FLOWERS – Today's flowers are dedicated by Pat Rehm and Carol Miller, "In honor of children everywhere."

HOLY GROUNDS – Pastor John will not be at Panera this Tuesday, July 4th.

Welcome
So glad you're here

Attendance on Sunday, June 25th, 2023 – Adults: 59; Kids: 10; Live Stream: 7; Total: 76

Readings

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 4:1–11

In those days the Philistines mustered for war against Israel, and Israel went out to battle against them; they encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle was joined, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. When the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the LORD put us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, so that God may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

When the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. When the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “Gods have come into the camp.” They also said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. Take courage, and be strong, O Philistines, in order not to become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be strong and fight.”

So the Philistines fought; Israel was defeated, and they fled, everyone to his home. There was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot-soldiers. The ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

Readings

New Testament Reading

Mark 10:35-40, 46-52

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

And Jesus said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"

And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They replied, "We are able."

Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here."

And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Readings

Continuing Testament - "We Shall Be Free" by Garth Brooks

This ain't comin' from no prophet,
Just an ordinary man.
When I close my eyes,
I see the way this world shall be
When we all walk hand in hand.

When the last child cries for a crust of bread,
When the last man dies for just words that he said,
When there's shelter over the poorest head,
We shall be free.

When the last thing we notice is the color of the skin,
And the first thing we look for is the beauty within;
When the skies and the oceans are clean again,
Then we shall be free.

Stand straight, walk proud,
'Cause we shall be free.

When we're free to love anyone we choose,
When this world's big enough for all different views,
When we all can worship from our own kind of pew,
Then we shall be free.

Have a little faith, hold out,
'Cause we shall be free.
And when money talks for the very last time,
And nobody walks a step behind;
When there's only one race,
And that's humankind, then we shall be free.

Stand straight, (walk proud,)
Have a little faith, (hold out;)
'Cause we shall be free.

Special Thanks:

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: David Pastor
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Snack: Kathy Ford
Set Up/Serve: Kathy Ford
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



JULY 9, 2023

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Annette Pedersen
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: ***Volunteer Needed***
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

NOTES
