



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***

“Every leaf
that grows will
tell you: what
you sow will
bear fruit, so if
you have any
sense my
friend, don't
plant anything
but Love.”

-- Rumi



15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 16th, 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!

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time
July 16th, 2023

Prelude

Canticle of the Sun
Assisted by Percussion Group

Haugen

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"When life hands you dirt, plant seeds." - Matshona Dhlwayo

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:** *(Based on Psalm 65:9-13)*

One: God visits the earth and waters it,

All: Greatly enriching the earth.

One: God waters the earth, softening it with showers,

All: And blessing the earth.

One: Along with the hills, the meadows, and the valleys,

All: Let us shout and sing together for joy

*** Hymn of Praise**

Morning Has Broken (see insert)

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

Loving God, you created life in us and all around us. We gather today in prayer, that we may receive your word. May we nurture it and allow your word to take root within us. May we not be distracted by the lure of wealth or the cares of the world. Let us be good soil, receiving your word, understanding it, and acting upon it. 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 - Psalm 65:5-13

New Testament Reading - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament by Patricia Grantham



Time With Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

Ave Maria

Schubert

Chris Hatala, vocalist

Translation from the Latin:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.
(Words based in part on Luke 1:42)*

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

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]**

Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us, may we be generous to others. Accept from us these gifts of word and money as we commit our lives to you. Amen.

Communion

Communion Music

Come, Let Us Eat

Kwillia (Liberia)

Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure *I Sing the Mighty Power of God***

#12

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.

* Benediction

Postlude *Most High, Omnipotent, Good Lord*

Hampton

Announcements:

FOR OUR WEBSITE – If you have a couple of minutes after worship today, please remain in the sanctuary. We are making some short videos of people talking about Brecksville UCC. Don't worry about planning something brilliant to say, just be natural and genuine.

What do you love about Brecksville UCC? What were your first impressions? Why do you keep coming back? With so many worthy causes, why do you choose to contribute to Brecksville UCC? These are some of the questions you can consider as we make the videos.

We will add these videos to our website to give people a feeling of what it is like here, and how they can expect to be welcomed. Just imagine that you are talking to a friend about BUCC. Imagine that they asked you some of the questions above - you wouldn't write a dissertation; you would speak from the heart. That's all we are asking you to do.

“AIR QUALITY” – Too hot? Too cold? Feel free to send Pastor John a text - we care about you and want to make sure you feel comfortable.

HOLY GROUNDS – I will be at the Brecksville Panera for coffee at 8:15 most Tuesday mornings. Anyone is welcome to stop by. There's no need for an RSVP or agenda, so you never know who might show up. Of course, if you are looking for a more traditional meeting in my office, you can always set that up too. But if you're just looking for casual conversation, stop by at Panera any Tuesday for a visit and some “holy grounds.” – Pastor John

Welcome
So glad you're here

Attendance on Sunday, July 9th, 2023 – Adults: 69; Kids: 9; Live Stream: 5; Total: 83

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 65:5-13

With marvelous deeds of justice you answer us,
O God, our Savior-
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the distant seas.
By your power you hold the mountains firm.
You calm the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves and the tumult among nations.
Those who live at the ends of the earth
are in awe at your marvels;
you make east and west resound with joy.
You have cared for the land and watered it;
greatly you have enriched it.
God's streams are filled;
you have provided the grain.
Thus have you prepared the land:
drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods,
softening it with showers, blessing its yield.
You have crowned the year with your bounty and with abundant harvest.
The fallow meadows overflow, and gladness clothes the hills.
The fields are arrayed with flocks, and the valleys blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for joy.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSV)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

Readings

New Testament Reading (*continued*)

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower.

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Continuing Testament - ***"Sowing the Seeds"*** by Patricia Grantham

Sowing the seeds of forgiveness
A life that is so full and sweet
Casting the bread of kindness
To all that you meet and greet

Spreading great bounties of love
Showered with great gifts of care
Basking in the rays of gladness
A loving heart that's made to share

Showing lots of grace and mercy
Then lace with a handful of peace
Reaping the ripe and golden harvest
Sowing that will never have to cease

Special Thanks:

JULY 16, 2023

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager

Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt

Greeter: Carol Miller

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V Team: Jim Duffy

Flowers: Carole Snider

Snack: Jon Thompson

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*



JULY 23, 2023

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: *Volunteer Needed*
Evelyn Seager

Lay Reader: Rose Kaval

Greeter: Lori Molesky

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V Team: David Pastor

Flowers: *Volunteer Needed*

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*



NOTES
