



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***

“Depend upon
it, sir, when a
man knows he
is to be hanged
in a fortnight, it
concentrates
his mind
wonderfully.”

— Samuel Johnson



19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 13th, 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!

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
August 13th, 2023

Prelude

Walking on Water

Louw

Assisted by Percussion Group

"I'm walking on water, walking on water, and my eyes are fixed on You."

(Gillaume and René Louw, from the album This Is Good News, GR Worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*"We'll see what his dreams amount to." – Joseph's brothers, **Genesis 37:20***

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Prayer:** *(based on **Isaiah 40:31**)*

One: In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

One: Those who wait upon God shall renew their strength,

All: they shall fly with wings like eagles,

One: they shall run and not be weary,

All: they shall walk and not faint.

One: God is our strength. In God we live and move and have our being.

All: We need this kind of hope.

One: Come; worship the Holy One who meets you where you are. Come; open yourselves to the God who lifts us up.

All: We gather to open our hearts in prayer. Breathe in us, O Divine Spirit.

*** Hymn of Praise**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#506

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

God of Love, as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples, meet us in the midst of the storms in our lives. God of Renewal, as you lifted Peter from the water, lift us from despair to hope, from distraction to focus, from death to life. God of the Journey, direct us in your way, work out your purpose in and through our lives.

We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.

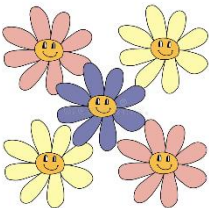
Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

Old Testament Reading - Genesis 37:2-8, 18-28 (The Message)

New Testament Reading - Matthew 14:22-33 (The Message)

Continuing Testament by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Time With Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

Here I Stand

Fazal

Cliff Cribbs, bass

1. *Here I stand before Your throne,
ready, waiting, Yours alone.
Everything I lay at Your feet;
Jesus, You are all that I could ever need.*

2. *All I bring, I'm laying down,
nevermore to call my own.
Yours completely, here I am;
loving You, O Lord, before your throne I stand.
(Words and music: Ruth Fazal; Copyright © 1993 Ruth Fazal)*

Sermon

Can Jesus Calm THIS Storm?

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Jesus Savior, Pilot Me

#441

The Church at Prayer

Allison Colbert, 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, 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]**

Loving God, we offer to you our whole lives as a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Use us; multiply us and these gifts we have placed at your altar, to extend the invitation of life, community and purpose in this place and around the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure** *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

#423

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

Fantasia in E-flat Major Pachelbel

Announcements:

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Pat Rehm with the message, "Happy Birthday Carol Miller!"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The CE Ministry is inviting all who are interested in learning more about our children's programs, to an informal meeting after today's service. Supporting our young people is the most important service we can offer! No one will be required to join the ministry (although we'd be thrilled if you're interested), so bring your coffee hour refreshments over to the library and see what we have planned for our kids!

WORSHIP IN THE PARK & CHURCH PICNIC – On Sunday August 27th at 10am, we will return to our tradition of a "Worship in the Park" service, followed by the annual church picnic! The location will be Sagamore Hills Twp. Park (maps are available). So pack your picnic basket with your favorite side dish-dessert to share, and we will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, table service and lemonade and/or iced tea. We are bringing back the pie baking contest, so find those great recipes and get ready for a possible prize. If you bring a cold dish, we ask that you please pack it in some ice. There are electrical outlets for crockpots.

We need a head count to ensure that we order enough for the grill, so please see Kathy Smith before you leave today and she'll count you in!

Welcome
So glad you're here

Attendance on Sunday, August 6th, 2023 – Adults: 49; Kids: 3; Live Stream: 5; Total: 57

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 37:2–8, 18-28 (The Message translation)

This is the story of Jacob. The story continues with [his son] Joseph, seventeen years old at the time, helping out his brothers in herding the flocks. These were his half brothers actually, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought his father bad reports on them.

Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was the child of his old age. And he made him an elaborately embroidered coat. When his brothers realized that their father loved him more than them, they grew to hate him—they wouldn't even speak to him.

Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said, "Listen to this dream I had. We were all out in the field gathering bundles of wheat. All of a sudden my bundle stood straight up and your bundles circled around it and bowed down to mine."

His brothers said, "So! You're going to rule us? You're going to boss us around?" And they hated him more than ever because of his dreams and the way he talked.

They cooked up a plot to kill him. The brothers were saying, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw him into one of these old cisterns; we can say that a vicious animal ate him up. We'll see what his dreams amount to."

Reuben heard the brothers talking and intervened to save him, "We're not going to kill him. No murder. Go ahead and throw him in this cistern out here in the wild, but don't hurt him." Reuben planned to go back later and get him out and take him back to his father.

When Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off the fancy coat he was wearing, grabbed him, and threw him into a cistern. The cistern was dry; there wasn't any water in it.

Then they sat down to eat their supper. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way from Gilead, their camels loaded with spices, ointments, and perfumes to sell in Egypt. Judah said, "Brothers, what are we going to get out of killing our brother and concealing the evidence? Let's sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites, but let's not kill him—he is, after all, our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

By that time the Midianite traders were passing by. His brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him into slavery for twenty pieces of silver to the traders who took Joseph with them down to Egypt.

Readings

New Testament Reading

Matthew 14:22-33 (The Message Translation)

[After the five thousand were fed with five loaves and two fishes,] Jesus insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

Readings

Continuing Testament – by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream . . . I have a dream that one day in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today . . . This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning. “My country, ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountain side, let freedom ring.”

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi, from every mountain side. Let freedom ring . . . When we allow freedom to ring—when we let it ring from every city and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last, Free at last, Great God almighty, We are free at last.”

Special Thanks:

AUGUST 13, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Rob Grow
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: Amelia Elting
Peace Candle: Edison Elting
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed



AUGUST 20, 2023

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Rob Grow
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
A/V Team: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: Dorie Gabor
Volunteer Needed



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