



# 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*

“Travel is fatal to  
prejudice, bigotry  
and narrow-  
mindedness,  
and many of our  
people need it  
sorely on those  
accounts.

Broad,  
wholesome,  
charitable views of  
people and things  
cannot be  
acquired by  
vegetating  
in one little corner  
of the earth  
all one's lifetime.”

– Mark Twain

Oh woman,  
great is your faith.  
Let it be to you  
as you desire

Matthew 15:28

**20th Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 20<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)***

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

# 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Prelude

*Praise Ye the Lord*

Cleveland

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

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*"August is the slow gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year.  
It yawns and lingers on with the light in its palms." - Victoria Erickson*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* Call to Prayer:** *(based on Psalm 133)*

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

**ALL: Amen.**

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**ALL: It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.**

One: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain

**ALL: God meets us here.**

**One:** We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

**\* Hymn of Praise**

*When Morning Guilds the Skies*

#86

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

**Maker of Our Days, you created each of us as unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.**

**Restorer of Our Soul, you have seen the parched places we have made in our lives. Meet us in the places of our deepest pain so that we might be drawn into right relationship with you and one another.**

**Breath of Our Lives, fill us with your presence, invigorate our prayer, set us on fire so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care. In Jesus we pray. 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 45: 1-15*

New Testament Reading - *Matthew 15:1-2, 7-10, 16-28 (NRSVUE)*

Continuing Testament by Billy Tyler



## *Time With Young Worshipers*



### Musical Offering

### *How Great Thou Art*

Hine

Evelyn Seager, soprano

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, feel the gentle breeze; (Refrain)

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! (twice)

3. And when I think that God, his Son  
not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly  
bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;  
(Refrain)

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! (Refrain)

**Sermon**

***Down the Drain***

Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

***All My Hope on God Is Founded***

#408

## ***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]**

**Holy God, you are our provider. We dedicate these offerings to your service, and we consecrate our lives and our labor to your honor and glory. Work in us and through us to extend your love and care, here and around the world. Amen.**

## Communion

Communion Hymn     *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

#788

### 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     *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#82

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

*To God with Gladness Sing*

Proulx

## ***Announcements:***

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TODAY!** – 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!



## **NEXT SUNDAY! WORSHIP IN THE PARK & THE CHURCH PICNIC**

Please join us next Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10am, for a “Worship in the Park” service, followed by the annual church picnic! The location will be the Sagamore Hills Twp. Park (maps are available). 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.

If you haven’t signed up with Kathy Smith, please do so after today’s service - we need a head count to ensure that we order enough for the grill.

Attendance on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Adults: 74; Kids: 7; Total: 81

## Readings

### Old Testament Reading

#### Genesis 45: 1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God, who has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.'

And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.



## Readings

### New Testament Reading

#### Matthew 15:1-2, 7-10, 16-28 (NRSVUE)

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat.”

Jesus responded, “You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ”

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”

Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”

He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”

He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

## Readings

### **Continuing Testament – by Billy Tyler**

*(This was written by Billy Tyler after voting on Ohio Issue One, on August 8, 2023)*

When I showed up to the voting polls today there were two women sitting in lawn chairs holding homemade signs that read: “What would Jesus do?”

All I could think was, Jesus would definitely not sit around all day at the end of a driveway. Jesus would definitely get out of his chair and walk to a homeless shelter to donate his time in some way. Jesus would use his time to collect school items and give them to families in need. Jesus would provide food to families who couldn't afford it. Jesus would go to a children's hospital and help kids feel better. Or Jesus would pick up litter, or plant a tree, or read books to scared puppies at an animal shelter, or SOMETHING. Jesus would serve.

And if Jesus had to sit around all day holding a sign for some reason, it definitely would not be one intended to shame, threaten or divide. It would be a sign that reminded the reader regardless of religious affiliation, spiritual beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, political party, or color of skin that they matter, that they belong here, and that they are loved.

Jesus was a healer, not a bully.

Evil is having the power to change things for the better, but instead using that power for selfish reasons and to disrupt other's lives.

Put your signs down.

Get out of your lawn chair.

Do something good.

For all.

# Special Thanks:

## AUGUST 20, 2023

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



## AUGUST 27, 2023 – SERVICE IN THE PARK

**Head Usher:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Ushers:** Carol Miller  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Bridget Sproul  
**Greeter:** Lori Molesky  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Dorie Gabor  
**A/V Team:** David Pastor  
**Flowers:** Tia Began  
**Snack:** Jenn Elting  
**Set Up/Serve:** Carole Snider  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Clean Up:** Dorie Gabor  
Carole Snider

# NOTES

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