



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***

*"No one gets to
play Jesus.
But we do get to
experience Jesus
in that holy place
where we meet
others' needs and
have our own
needs met.
We are all the
needy ones and
the ones
who meet needs.
To place ourselves
or anyone else
in only one
category is to
lie to ourselves."*

- Nadia Bolz-Weber



26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 1st, 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 - 1:30pm

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!

World Communion Sunday - October 1st, 2023

Prelude

Canticle of the Sun

Haugen

Assisted by Percussion Group

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

Music ***We Gather Here in Jesus' Name (Come, Share the Lord)*** Leech

Erin Tomlinson, flute; David Pastor and Dave Shackle, guitar

"No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.

Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.

Though unseen, he meets us here in the breaking of the bread."

(Text and Music: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1984; © 1984 Fred Bock Music Co., Inc.)

"What is life?

It is the flash of a firefly in the night.

It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime.

It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset."

- Chief Crowfoot

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Based on Psalm 19)*

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God

All: May our prayer reflect God's glory.

Leader: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

All: May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

Leader: Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

All: We commune with God's people around the world, with all the holy ones throughout time.

Leader: We join with all creation to announce the greatness of our God!

Let us worship!

* Hymn of Praise

Canticle of the Sun (see insert)

Haugen

***INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your presence among your people, those gathered for worship, and all your people throughout your creation. May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly. 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)

First Reading - Philippians 2:1-11 (The Voice translation)

New Testament Reading - Matthew 21:28-32 (The Inclusive Bible)

Continuing Testament by Jim Wallis



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

Circle

Friedman/Weil

*Some say the walls between us stand so tall.
They don't see there's just one sun shining on us all.
I say we each choose roads to call our own,
but none of us is traveling through the universe alone.*

Refrain: And this circle just goes on and on. It began before us, it will be here when we're gone.

*And this circle just goes on and on and on,
connecting our humanity, joining me to you and you to me.*

*Seasons keep spinning on the wheel of time.
We stand, we fall, we struggle up the mountains we must climb.
Different dreams may color what we see ahead.
But our lives are strong together, all a common thread. (Refrain)*

*Around and 'round and 'round and 'round we go.
Laugh and learn and change and grow.
'Round and 'round and 'round we go.*

*And this circle touches everyone,
as it crosses every boundary underneath the sun. (Refrain)
Someday we will come to see and join to you and you to me.*

(Words and Music: Jud Friedman and Cynthia Weil; Copyright © 1997 by Peermusic Ltd., Schmoogie Tunes and Dyad Music, Ltd; this arr. © 1998 by the same)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

#563

The Church at Prayer

Carol Miller, Allison Colbert, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Russ King, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson, Rose Kaval, Bee 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, as Jesus made a few loaves and fish into a meal for thousands, multiply our offerings. Take these gifts of many breads from around our neighborhood and our world as an expression of our desire for oneness with all who share your bread of life today.

Communion

Communion Hymn

Come to the Table of Grace

Hamm

1. Come to the table of grace, *(twice)*
This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.
2. Come to the table of peace...
3. Come to the table of love...
4. Come to the table of joy...

(Words and Music: Barbara Hamm, Copyright © 2008)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

#397

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

Glory to God in the Highest

Traditional

Readings

First Reading

Philippians 2:1-11 (The Voice translation)

If you find any comfort from being in Jesus, the Anointed, if His love brings you some encouragement, if you experience true companionship with the Spirit, if His tenderness and mercy fill your heart; *then, brothers and sisters, here is one thing that would* complete my joy—come together as one in mind and spirit and purpose, sharing in the same love. Don't let selfishness and prideful agendas take over. Embrace true humility, and lift your heads to extend love to others. Get beyond yourselves and protecting your own interests; *be sincere*, and secure your neighbors' interests first.

In other words, adopt the mind-set of Jesus the Anointed. *Live with His attitude in your hearts. Remember:* Though He was in the form of God, He chose not to cling to equality with God; But He poured Himself out *to fill a vessel brand new*; a servant in form and a man indeed. The very likeness of humanity, He humbled Himself, obedient to death—a merciless death on the cross! So God raised Him up to the highest place and gave Him the name above all. So when His name is called, every knee will bow, in heaven, on earth, and below. And every tongue will confess “Jesus, the Anointed One, is Lord,” to the glory of God our Creator!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28-32 (The Inclusive Bible)

Jesus said, “What do you think? There was a landowner who had two children. The landowner approached the elder and said, ‘My child, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ This first child replied, ‘No, I won’t,’ but afterwards regretted it and went. The landowner then came to the second child and said the same thing. The second child said in reply, ‘I’m on my way,’ but never went. Which of the two did what was wanted?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “The truth is, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Reign of God before you. When John came walking on the road of justice, you didn’t believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you didn’t repent and believe.

Readings

Continuing Testament – From *God's Politics*, by Jim Wallis (p.217)

One of my lesser-known mentors was an old Pentecostal woman in our [Washington D.C.] neighborhood named Mary Glover. She taught me more about the call of Jesus to the poor than any seminary professor I ever had. Mary was like a self-appointed missionary in our poor community, and she was a regular volunteer in our weekly food line. So poor that she too needed the bag of groceries passed out each week, Mary often said the prayer before we opened the doors each Saturday morning simply because she was our best pray-er.

Mary was one of those people who pray like they know to whom they're talking. You got the sense that she'd been carrying on a running conversation with her Lord for a very long time. It was always worth getting up and heading down to our neighborhood center just to hear Mary Glover pray.

She'd usually start by saying something like, "Thank you, Lord, for waking us up this morning! Thank you, Lord, that our walls were not our grave and our bed was not our cooling board! Thank you, Lord!" Then she would always pray the same words, as a long line of people waited outside in the rain, cold, and heat for a simple bag of groceries, a mere twenty blocks from the White House by itself a striking metaphor in the capitol city of the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth. Here's what Mary Glover always prayed, "Lord, we know that you'll be comin' through this line today, so Lord, help us to treat you well."



Announcements:

SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY – The “Neighbors in Need” offering will be collected today. Please use the envelope from your bulletin for your donation. This offering provides support for funding the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries - a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. It also supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

BUCC NURSERY – If you love little children and want to share some of your time with our infants and toddlers, please consider signing up on Breeze to be a Nursery helper on Sundays during the church service. Our own Amelia Elting has volunteered to be our Nursery Attendant, and although very capable, she might require a helping hand on occasion. We are looking for several volunteers to check in with her prior to the start of the service, to see if she needs help.

If you are thinking about utilizing the nursery on Sunday, please let Amelia know, prior to the start of service. We ask parents to please fill out an information form, which can be found in the Nursery in a binder near the door. Thank you.

- Evie Novak, SCR

FALL MINI-RETREAT – Join us on Saturday, October 28th, from 10:30 – 2:30, for the return to our traditional Fall retreat. It will occur at Canalway Center Nature Preserve in Cuyahoga Heights, and lunch will be included! The theme will be “Joy” and the suggested donation is \$10, but whatever works for your budget will do. So keep an eye out for the orange sign-up sheet circulated during coffee hour for the next couple weeks.

FREE CONCERT - On Sunday **October 29th** at **4:00 PM**, BUCC will host a free concert featuring The Western Campus Chorale of Tri-C. Also performing will be the Tri-C Community Band. The ensembles will be playing a variety of light classical and popular music. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Make sure to reserve October 29th at 4:00 on your calendars, so you can enjoy this free musical event with us!

Special Thanks:

OCTOBER 1, 2023

Head Usher: Peg Duffy
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Readers: Rob Grow
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Jenn Elting
Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



OCTOBER 8, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: ***Volunteers Needed***
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Snack: Peg Duffy
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

QR code for
Questionnaire



NOTES: _____
