



# 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***

*"Keep feeling  
the need for  
being first.  
But I want you to  
be the first in  
love.  
I want you to  
be the first in  
moral excellence.  
I want you to  
be the first in  
generosity."*

- Martin Luther  
King, Jr.



Photo by Karen Sandstrom

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 22<sup>nd</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 - 1:30pm***

***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!**

# 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time - October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Prelude

*Jesus Is Here Right Now*

Roberts

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

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*"When we choose to love, we choose to move  
against fear, against alienation and separation.  
The choice to love is a choice to connect, to find ourselves in the other."  
- bell hooks*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

**All: Let us worship God with love, and thanks, and praise.**

**\* Hymn of Praise**

***From All That Dwell Below the Skies***

**#27**

### **\*INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

As we turn to you, O God, once again, you know that we have been here many times before. Too often, though, we lose interest in prayer. Let the promise of autumn, ushered in by golden days and cooling nights, let loose new enthusiasm for the wonder of finding you once again. Let the images of life and the joys we receive from helping others pass through our minds and hearts. Help us to recall the gratitude we felt for a kindness done for us this week. Remind us of your constant presence as we focus on our inner strengths, to reflect on your Spirit renewed in each of us. Amen

**\* Assurance of Grace**

**\*Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

Glory, glory, glory!  
Glory to God in the highest, (twice)  
And on earth be peace to all people,  
for God loves us all. (twice)

***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - Isaiah 40:27-31**

**Second Reading - Matthew 14:13-20**

**Continuing Testament by Rabbi Sheila Weinberg**



Time with Young Worshippers,  
with Carol Miller



**Anthem**

***Lord, for Your Glory***

Huesman/Cunningham/Hampton, arr. Wyrzten

*1. Lord, for your glory, we sing Your praises, we magnify Your holy name;  
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing, we seek to honor You all of our days.*

*Refrain: We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You, we worship all You are in spirit and truth!  
We lift our hearts, we lift our lives to You; we offer all we are for the glory of You.*

*2. Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen, You have been faithful to Your own;  
Great God Creator, we are Your children, we lay down all we have here at Your throne.*

*(Refrain) + We offer all we are, we offer all we have, we offer all our lives for the glory of You.  
Lord, for Your glory.*

*(Copyright 1998 by Matt Huesman Music, adm. by Bug Music, River Oaks Music Co.,  
Imagine This Music and New Spring Publishing, Inc., ASCAP)*

**Sermon**

***Ancestors and Heirs***

by Kate Matthews

**Hymn of Reflection**

***Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread***

#342

## ***The Church at Prayer***

Allison Colbert, Pastor John King, 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.**

### **Stewardship Sharing by Sherrill Witt**

## ***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 marvel at your greatness. Your gifts know no beginning or end. You give us this beautiful world; you give us our lives.**

**Today we give these gifts to you, knowing that you will use them for your purposes. Bless our offering to your work. May it bring light to darkness, hope to despair, wholeness to brokenness and peace to all people. And make us ever thankful for the abundant gifts you have given us. Amen.**

## Communion

Communion Hymn

*Eat this Bread*

#788

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with this holy food and drink. Thank you for quieting our minds and strengthening our hearts today. Inspire us now to do your work in the world as open, inclusive, peaceful and loving people of faith. Amen.

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure

*Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

#18

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

*Glorious Is Your Name*

Fryson

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

God does not faint or grow weary; God’s understanding is unsearchable.

God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

### Second Reading

#### Matthew 14:13-20

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”

And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

## Readings

### Continuing Testament – By Madeleine L'Engle, and Parker Palmer

“Rather than feeling lost and unimportant and meaningless, set against galaxies which go beyond the reach of the furthest telescopes, I feel that my life has meaning. Perhaps I should feel insignificant, but instead I feel a soaring in my heart that the God who could create all this — and out of nothing — can still count the hairs of my head.”

"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

- Madeleine L'Engle



“In my view, the mission of the church is not to enlarge its membership, not to bring outsiders to accept its terms, but simply to love the world in every possible way – to love the world as God did and does.”

- From *In the Company of Strangers*, by Parker Palmer





# Announcements:

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Kate Matthews, who has generously offered to fill in for Pastor John today!

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are dedicated by Diane Gressley, "In honor of my parents' wedding anniversary – with fond memories."

**SEASONAL CHOIR** - It's not too late to join this year's Christmas cantata seasonal choir! All that you need to have is a love for singing Christmas music and availability on Thursday evenings from 7:00-7:45 PM. This year's cantata is called *Sing Christmas*, and it will be performed on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, during the service - it's a great way to prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons, and it's a lot of fun! Listening tracks are provided to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome to participate. Contact Dave D with any questions.

**FREE CONCERT** - On Sunday **October 29<sup>th</sup>** 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 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 on your calendars, so you can enjoy this free musical event with us!

**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

# Announcements: *(continued)*

**ADVENT BOOK DEADLINE** – Many thanks to all those who've signed up to write an entry for this year's Advent book! This is a reminder that the deadline for submitting your entry is Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – please either send it via email to **buccoffice23@gmail.com**, or drop it off at the church office. Thank you!



On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, we will have our annual All Souls service. Please submit the names of your loved ones who have passed away since last November, to the office email at: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com). We need their names by November 1<sup>st</sup>, to include them in the bulletin.

**MEMORIAL MUG TREE** - During coffee hour following the All Souls service, we will dedicate our new "Memorial Mug Tree". The mugs (or another symbol) will be displayed in our community gathering space, as a lasting memory of folks from our church family who have gone before us. If you have your loved one's BUCC mug, please bring it that day.

**WE REMEMBER TABLE** – Also on All Souls Sunday, a dedicated table space will be available in Pilgrim Hall, for you to share a picture of someone who was dear to you. Please bring your photo downstairs to the "We Remember Table" before church. You may include a short dedication with the picture.

Attendance on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Adults: 56; Kids: 2; Livestream: ?; Total: 58

# Special Thanks:

## OCTOBER 22, 2023

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Sue Stenzel  
**Lay Reader:** Jon Thompson  
**Greeter:** Lori Molesky  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** Cammie Rogers Ward  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers:** Janet Renovetz  
**Snack:** Armand Eusano  
Lois Lorenzo  
**Set Up/Serve:** Annette Pedersen  
Carol Snider  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***



## OCTOBER 29, 2023

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
***Volunteers Needed***  
**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan  
**Greeter:** Carol Miller  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** ***Volunteer Needed***  
**Flowers:** Julie Bernard  
**Snack:** Jackie Cassara  
Jenn Elting  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***



QR code for  
Questionnaire →



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