



# 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***

*"Peace is not  
something you  
wish for;  
it's something  
you make,  
something  
you do,  
something  
you are  
and something  
you give away."*

- John Lennon



**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, November 5<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 - 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)***

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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# All Saints Service - November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Prelude

*Litany of the Saints*

Becker

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"All you holy men and women, pray for us."*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward**

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*"People say walking on water is a miracle. But to me,  
walking peacefully on Earth is the real miracle." - Thich Nhat Hanh*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Inspired by Psalm 107:1-7, 33-377)*

One: Give thanks for the enduring love of the Holy One!

**Many: We've been gathered from all directions and in all spaces to declare the greatness of God.**

One: Give thanks for the enduring love of the Holy One!

**Many: We have been redeemed by the abiding love of our Creator.**

One: Give thanks for the enduring love of the Holy One!

**Many: Let the redeemed proclaim God's wondrous works. Great is the Holy One and greatly to be praised!**

**\* INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

God our Teacher, please instruct us in the ways of humility and love. Help us to be in community with one another rather than in competition with each other. Give us your heart for serving our neighbor. Assure us of your abiding presence and release us from the hierarchies of this world. May your Realm come with power and gentleness in your name. Amen.

**\* Hymn of Praise**

***Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls***

#383

**\* PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE: [UNISON]**

Exalted God, we struggle to trust you in all aspects of our lives, and we seek validation from temporal and inadequate sources. We confess that we base our identity on human structures, plans, and schemes. We fail to be satisfied with the gifts and purpose you have given to us. We do not appreciate the ways in which we are uniquely and wonderfully made. Deliver us from the tyranny of comparison and renew a right spirit of humility and peace within us, we pray. Amen.

**\* Words of Grace**

**\*Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988



***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**Second Reading - Matthew 23: 1-15, 23-33 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**Continuing Testament - Robin R. Meyers**



**Time with Young Worshippers**



**Anthem**

***A Living Sacrifice***

McDonald

*Lord, we come to You with hearts of gratitude;  
You've shown us how to love and how to live completely.  
Lord, help us to forgive and love as You have loved us.  
Help us to be a living sacrifice, sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ;  
to show the love of God to all the world. Lord, let us be a living sacrifice.  
As we worship You in Spirit and in truth,  
Lord, bless us with Your grace to know we are forgiven.  
May we live in peace and share Your loving mercy,  
to show the love of God to all the world. Lord, let us be a living sacrifice.  
Let us love, let us live in harmony. Let us go, let us serve in the power of Jesus' name;  
to show the love of God to all the world. Lord, let us be, help us to be,  
Lord, let us be a living sacrifice. Amen, amen!*

(Words and Music: Mary McDonald; Copyright © 2012 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

## ***Litany for All Saints***

Pastor: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

**Many: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.**

Pastor: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

**Many: In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.**

Pastor: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

**Many: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.**

### ***We Remember:***



Donna Cartellone  
Jeanne Cowden  
Anthony (Sam) DiGiacomo  
Bob Garcar  
Evan Hoffman  
Betty Kaul  
Martin (Marty) Kearns  
Alan (Al) Klonowski  
Cindy McMananan  
Andrea Mislosky  
Suzanne Patrick  
Shirley Pinto  
Maxine Sherman

**ALL: God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### ***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 Kate Matthews**

### ***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.**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]**

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity. Amen.



***Communion***

**Communion Hymn**

***Come to the Table***

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]**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence, in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure      *Forward through the Ages*

#377

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.

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E on the first staff; A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A on the second staff. The lyrics are: 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

*In Bright Mansions Above*

African American spiritual

*"Lord, I want to live up yonder in bright mansions above."*





## Readings

### First Reading

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Let us remind you, sisters and brothers, of our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the Good News of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, that our treatment of you since you have become believers has been just, upright and impeccable. You likewise know how we treated every one of you, as parents do their children - encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into glory and the realm of God. And we constantly thank God for the way you received the words we preached to you, not as our word but as the word of God, which it really was. And it changed your lives when you believed it.

### Second Reading

#### **Matthew 23: 1-15, 23-33 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, "The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; therefore, perform every observance they tell you to. But don't follow their example; even they don't do what they say. They tie up heavy loads and lay them on others' shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden.

"All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels. They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues. They love respectful greetings in public and being called 'Rabbi.' But as for you, avoid the title 'Rabbi.' For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers. And don't call anyone on earth your 'Mother' or 'Father.' You have only one Parent—our loving God in heaven. Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader—the Messiah.

"The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted."

"Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You shut the doors of heaven's realm in people's faces, neither entering yourselves, nor allowing others to enter who want to. Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You go on and on with prayer for show, all the while devouring the only security that widows have—their houses; you, therefore, will be given the greater punishment. Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You travel over land and over sea to make a single convert, and once that person is converted, you create a proselyte twice as wicked as yourselves. Woe to you religious scholars and you Pharisees, you frauds! You pay your tithes on mint, dill and cumin while neglecting the weightier matters of the Law—justice, mercy and faithfulness!

## Readings

### Second Reading (continued)

These you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out gnats, but swallow camels in the process! Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You clean the outside of the cup and the dish, leaving the inside filled with plunder and lust. Blind Pharisees! First clean the inside of the cup so that the outside may become clean as well. Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You are like whitewashed tombs, beautiful to look at on the outside, but on the inside full of filth and the bones of the dead. In the same way you present a holy exterior to others, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate monuments of holy people, saying, 'We never would have joined in shedding the blood of the prophets, had we lived in our ancestors' days.' Ha! Your own evidence testifies against you! You are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets! Now it's your turn: finish what your ancestors started."

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How can you escape eternal damnation?"

**Continuing Testament** – From ***Saving Jesus from the Church***, by Robin R. Meyers 132, 139

In many American churches, Jesus still comes "as one unknown"—or perhaps as one so well-known as to be unrecognizable. He was penniless and itinerant, yet his gospel is now attached to some of the richest and most powerful people on earth, and the good news is really bad news for the poor. Captives are not released; they are warehoused. The blind do not see; rather, the sighted wear blinders. The oppressed are not liberated; they have become the new scapegoats. Sermons are no longer dangerous; they are simply adapted to the appetites and anxieties of the audience. Conservatives rail against sins of the flesh, as if to exorcise their own demons, and liberals baptize political correctness at the expense of honesty...

It was Martin Luther King Jr. who recognized the difference between comforting the poor and confronting the people and systems that cause poverty. Of course, we should be good Samaritans, but we should also consider doing something to make the road to Jericho less dangerous for everyone. In the end, Dr. King knew that "you cannot set the captive free if you are not willing to confront those who hold the keys. Without confrontation compassion becomes merely commiseration, fruitless and sentimental."

QR code for  
Questionnaire



## *Announcements:*

**AL KLONOWSKI** – There will be a memorial tree planting for Al on Monday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at noon. It will take place in Independence, on the corner of Selig Blvd. and Kathy Lynn Drive (near the Civic Center, between the library and the baseball diamond).

**THANKSGIVING POTLUCK** – Next Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, is Stewardship Sunday. It's the day we bring in our pledge cards and celebrate by feasting after the service. Everyone is invited - please sign up at church or call in to let us know how many will be coming and what side dish you'll be sharing. It's a great day to bring family and friends!

**BBH PRIDE EVENT** – On Thursday evening, November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 7:30 pm, there will be a presentation on “Reconciling Religion and LGBTQ+ Issues” at the Brecksville Library. Pastor John is a member of the panel, and the event will conclude with a Q & A session and refreshments. No registration is required.

**HANGING OF THE GREENS** refers to the practice of adding evergreen plants (live or artificial) to a congregation's worship space, as a sign of life flourishing in the dead of winter, and a symbol of the Eternal. Please join us following worship on Sunday, **November 26<sup>th</sup>**, when BUCC will ring in the holiday season with our own “Hanging of the Greens” celebration/pizza party.

**BUCC NURSERY** – If you are thinking about utilizing the nursery on Sunday, please let Amelia Elting 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. Also, we are looking for several volunteers to check in with Amelia prior to the start of the service, to see if she needs help. Thank you!

Attendance on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Adults: 76; Kids: 14; Livestream: 15; Total: 105

# Special Thanks:

## All Saints NOVEMBER 5, 2023

**Head Usher:** Anne Melfo  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Acolyte:** Cammie Rogers Ward  
**Lay Reader:** Jackie Cassara  
**Greeter:** Jon Thompson  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Nursery Attendant:** Evie Novak  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel  
**Snack:** Lois Lorenzo  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***



## Stewardship Sunday &



**NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

**Head Usher:** Peg Duffy  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Lay Reader:** Diane Gressley  
**Greeter:** Lori Molesky  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Flowers:** Carole Snider  
**Snack:** Sue Stenzel, et.al  
**Set Up/Serve:** ***Volunteers Needed***  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***