



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***

*"Awakening in
a moment of peace
I give thanks
to the source
of all peace.
As I set forth
into the day
the birds sing
with new voices and
I listen with
new ears and
I give thanks.
My feet touch the
grass still wet
with dew and
I give thanks.
The dewdrops
become jewelled
with the morning's
sun-fire and
I give thanks."*

- Harriet Kofalk

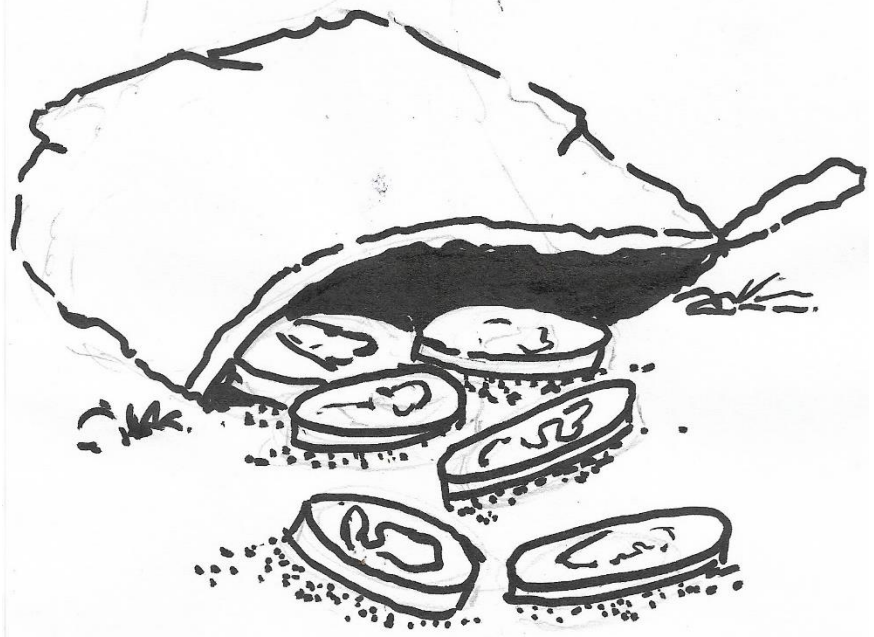


Illustration by Elizabeth Gadus. "The Parable of the Talents."

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, November 19th, 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!



33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time November 19th, 2023

Prelude

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Thomerson

With Percussion Group

*"In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus."*

(Text and Music: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966; Copyright © 1970, 1975 Celebration)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out
and the tide of love rushes in." - Kristin Armstrong*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Inspired by Psalm 90)*

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe burst into existence, before the Earth had form, you have been with us.

Many: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

Many: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

Many: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

*** INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us. Amen.

*** Hymn of Praise**

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

#70

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

Sovereign God, we are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first in mind. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion, and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, or violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. Amen.

*** Words 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 - Matthew 25:14-30

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Continuing Testament - by Edward Hays



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem

Take My Life, That I May Be Dexheimer-Pharris, arr. Sedio

*Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*1. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. ((Refrain)
Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. (Refrain)*

*2. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shall choose. (Refrain)
Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne. (Refrain)*

(Music: William Dexheimer-Pharris; words: Francis Havergal, trans. Vicente Mendoza;
copyright © 1999 Augsburg Fortress)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

For the Fruit of Creation

#425

The Church at Prayer

Cliff Stenzel, Allison Colbert, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, 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.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. 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]

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed* #537

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 musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The first staff has chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff has chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The music ends with a double bar line.

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in C Major

Handel

Readings

First Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus told this parable. Once, a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Sir, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

He replied, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Sir, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

He replied, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Sir, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But he replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness.'

Readings

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Brothers and sisters, you don't live in the dark. That day won't take you by surprise as a thief would. You belong to the day and the light not to the night and the dark.

Therefore, we must not fall asleep like other people, but we must stay awake and be sober. People who sleep, sleep at night; people who get drunk, get drunk at night. Since we belong to the day, we must be sober. We must put on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

It was not God's intention that we experience God's anger but that we obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake in this life or asleep in death, we will live together with God. Therefore, encourage each other and strengthen one another as you are doing.

Continuing Testament – “Autumn Psalm of Fearlessness” by Edward Hays

I am surrounded by a peaceful ebbing, as creation bows to the mystery of life; all that grows and lives must give up life, yet it does not really die. As plants surrender their life, bending, brown, and wrinkled, and yellow leaves of trees float to my lawn like parachute troops, they do so in a sea of serenity.

I hear no fearful cries from creation, no screams of terror, as death daily devours once green and growing life. Peaceful and calm is autumn's swan song, for she understands that hidden in winter's death-grip is spring's openhanded, full-brimmed breath of life.

It is not a death rattle that sounds over fields and backyard fences; rather I hear a lullaby softly swaying upon the autumn wind. Sleep in peace, all that lives; slumber secure, all that is dying, for in every fall there is the rise whose sister's name is spring.

Announcements:

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Carol Miller & Pat Rehm, "In thanksgiving for our blessings and for the Rehm and Miller families."

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 26th**, when BUCC will ring in the holiday season with our own "Hanging of the Greens" celebration/pizza party.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – During the four Sundays of Advent (December 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th), we'd like to invite volunteers to light the Advent Wreath candles. Please either contact the office at **buccoffice23@gmail.com** or **440-526-4364**, OR sign up via the weekly email from Breeze. Sign up is open to individuals, couples and/or groups – thank you!

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!

Special Thanks:

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager Sue Stenzel
Lay Reader:	Kate Matthews
Greeter:	Michelle Rogers
Acolyte:	Cammie Rogers Ward
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Flowers:	Carol Miller Pat Rehm
Snack:	Annette Pedersen Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Carol Miller Annette Pedersen
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed



NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Head Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Sue Stenzel
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Flowers:	Karen Sandstrom
Snack:	Jenn Elting Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
Snow Herder:	Volunteer Needed

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.