



Brecksville

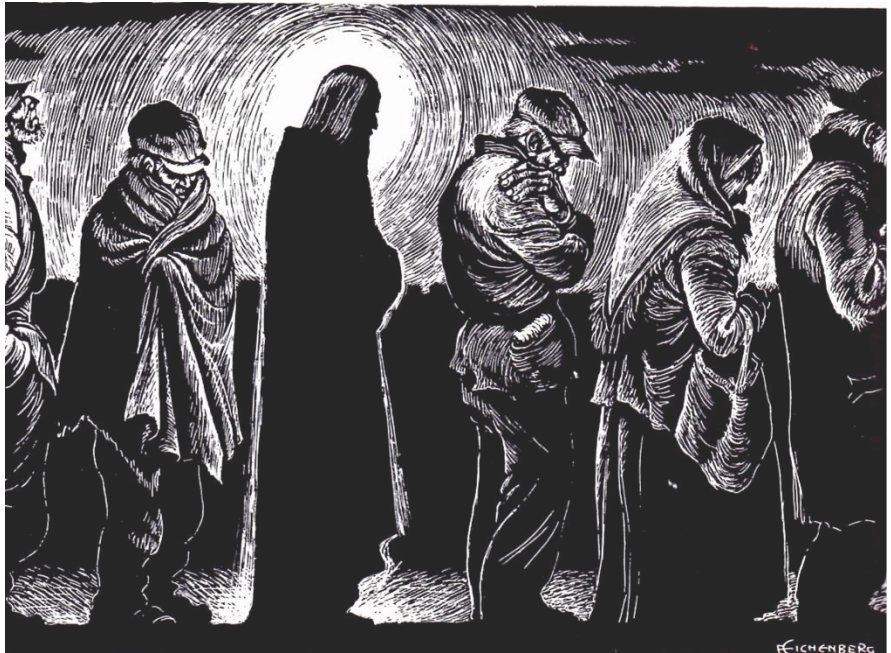
United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power***

*"I have tried
drugs and a little
of everything
else, and there is
nothing in the
world more soul-
satisfying than
having the
kingdom of God
building inside
you and
growing."*

– Johnny Cash



Fritz Eichenberg. (1953). Christ of the Breadlines.[wood engraving].

Reign of Christ Sunday, November 26th, 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!

Reign of Christ Sunday - November 26th, 2023

Prelude

Eternal Christ, You Rule
With Percussion Group

Damon

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"The kingdom of God is within you" - Jesus, Luke 17:21

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER:** *(Inspired by Psalm 100)*

One: Make a joyful noise to the Holy One! Worship with gladness and singing!

Many: God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and Shepherd. Bless God's name.

One: Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

Many: God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God's name.

One: Know that God reigns! God's kingdom comes!

Many: God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend. Bless God's name!

*** Hymn of Praise**

City of God

Schutte

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light -
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

**Refrain: Let us build the city of God
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
Has turned the night into day!**

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day,
The One who has loved us has brightened our way. **(Refrain)**

3. God is light; in God there is no darkness.
Let us walk in God's light, God's children, one and all.

4. O comfort My people; make gentle your words -
Proclaim to My city the day of her birth **(Refrain)**

(Music and words by Daniel Schutte, b. 1947; Copyright 1981, Daniel Schutte & New Dawn Music)

*** INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

God of Love. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. We flourish in your compassion. Be present among us as we bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. 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 25:31-46 (The Inclusive Bible)

Second Reading - Ephesians 1:15-23 (The Inclusive Bible)

Continuing Testament - by John Lennon

Youth Anthem

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ

Bell

1. *Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Son of God among us,
thank you for every sign showing that you love us.*
2. *Jesus reigns, Jesus reigns, Son of God among us...*
3. *We are yours, we are yours...*
4. *You are Lord, you are Lord...*
5. *Praise to you, praise to you...*

(Words and Music: John Bell; Copyright © 1998 WGRG, Iona Community. GIA Publications, Inc.)



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

Majesty, Worship His Majesty
Dave Shackle, trumpet

Hayford, arr. Thomas

*Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne unto his own; his anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings. (twice)*
(Words and Music: Jack Hayford, 1981; arr. Eugene Thomas, 1981;
© 1981 Rocksmith Music c/o Trust Music Management)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

#181

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]**

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet what is needed for the building up of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

#303

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 simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed 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.

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

Lord Reign in Me

Brown

*"Lord reign in me, reign in your power, over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am, so won't you reign in me again."
(Words and Music: Brenton Brown; ©1998 Vineyard Songs)*

Readings

First Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23 (The Inclusive Bible)

From the time I first heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Savior Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you to a rich knowledge of the Creator.

I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you—the promised glories that God's holy ones will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe. You can tell this from the strength of God's power at work in Jesus, the power used to raise Christ from the dead and to seat Christ in heaven at God's right hand, far above every sovereignty, authority, power or dominion, and above any other name that can be named—not only in this age, but also in the age to come.

God has put all things under Christ's feet and made Christ, as the ruler of everything, the head of the church, and the church is Christ's body; it's the fullness of the One who fills all of creation.

Second Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 (The Inclusive Bible)

"At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left.

"The ruler will say to those on the right, 'Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit what has been prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.'

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Second Reading *(continued)*

Then these just will ask, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?'

The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.'

"Then the ruler will say to those on the left, 'Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.'

Then they in turn will ask, 'When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?'

The answer will come, 'The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.' They will go off to eternal punishment, and the just will go off to eternal life."

Continuing Testament – by John Lennon

"Love is like a precious plant. You can't just accept it and leave it in the cupboard or just think it's going to get on by itself. You've got to keep on watering it. You've got to really look after it and nurture it.

We live in a world where we have to hide to make love, while violence is practiced in broad daylight.

Our society is run by insane people for insane objectives. I think we're being run by maniacs for maniacal ends and I think I'm liable to be put away as insane for expressing that. That's what's insane about it...

Get out there and get peace, think peace, and live peace and breathe peace, and you'll get it as soon as you like.

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament *(continued)*

That's what the great masters and mistresses have been saying ever since time began. They can point the way, leave signposts and little instructions in various books that are now called holy and worshipped for the cover of the book and not for what it says, but the instructions are all there for all to see, have always been and always will be.

I believe in God, but not as one thing, not as an old man in the sky. I believe that what people call God is something in all of us. I believe that what Jesus and Mohammed and Buddha and all the rest said was right. It's just that the translations have gone wrong.

Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away. Declare it. Just the same way we declare war. That is how we will have peace... we just need to declare it.

My role in society, or any artist's or poet's role, is to try and express what we all feel. Not to tell people how to feel. Not as a preacher, not as a leader, but as a reflection of us all.

When you do something noble and beautiful and nobody noticed, do not be sad. For the sun every morning is a beautiful spectacle and yet most of the audience still sleeps.

Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."



Announcements:



HANGING OF THE GREENS TODAY! Immediately following today's service, we will be ringing in the holiday season by putting up the tree and decorating our worship space. Many hands make light work, so please join us for this festive tradition, and pizza!

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!

HUNGER MEAL – Next Sunday afternoon, December 3rd, BUCC is hosting the Hunger Meal at Iglesia Emmanuel (3388 West 41st St. Cleveland). This is an opportunity to help with serving and talking with the people who come for the meal we prepare. Our presence at the meal is a visible reminder of BUCC in the community. We will announce the time and we also invite you to bring baked goods to BUCC on Dec. 3rd, to be used as dessert after the meal.

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 26, 2023

Head Usher:	Betsey Wilson
Ushers:	Annette Pedersen Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Greeter:	Sue Stenzel
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Flowers:	Karen Sandstrom
Snack:	Jenn Elting
Set Up/Serve:	Kathy Pastor Sherrill Witt
Clean Up:	Sherrill Witt <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snow Herder:	<i>Volunteer Needed?</i>



DECEMBER 3, 2023

Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager Heidi Spangler Jon Thompson
Lay Reader:	
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Advent Candle:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Counters:	Marge Culver <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Flowers:	Annette Pedersen
Snack:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Snow Herder:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

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 approximately 20 lines visible. On the left side, there is a vertical margin line, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be a standard notebook or legal pad style.