



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***

*"Sometimes
grace works like
waterwings
when you feel
you are
sinking."*

*- Anne Lamott,
21st century*



Ssali, Gloria. *Baptism of the Lord Jesus #11*. 1/13/2015.

Baptism of the Lord - Sunday, January 7th, 2024 • 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!

Baptism of the Lord

January 7th, 2024

Prelude

Wade in the Water

African American spiritual

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved."
Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence."
- Henri J.M. Nouwen, 20th century*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Inspired by Psalm 29)*

One: Ascribe to God glory and honor!

Many: The Voice of the Holy One is over the waters and speaks creation into being.

One: Ascribe to the Holy One strength and peace!

Many: The Voice of the Sovereign One calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

One: Ascribe to the Omnipresent One power and gentleness!

Many: The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever.

Hymn of Praise

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

#115, vs. 1, 3-6

*** INVOCATION:** [UNISON]

Triune God, you come among us in the fullness of your being and affirm the fullness of our humanity—mind, body, and spirit. In you, we find joy and salvation. In you, we claim peace and hope. In you, we arise to greet a new day and a new way of being. Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness and your way. 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 - Acts 19:1-7 (NSRV)

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:4-11 (NSRV)

Continuing Testament - by Lao Tsu



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams

Hurd

1. *What ruler wades through murky streams and bows beneath the wave,
Ignoring how the world esteems the powerful and brave?*

*Refrain: Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!
Recarve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me.*

2. *Christ gleams with water brown with clay from land the prophets trod.
Above while heaven's clouds give way descends the dove of God. (Refrain)*

3. *Come bow beneath the flowing wave. Christ stands here at your side
and raises you as from the grave God raised the crucified. (Refrain)*

*(Music: David Hurd, 1994; words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1984, rev. 1993; words Copyright © 1984;
rev. 1993, Oxford University Press, Inc.)*

Sermon

“Immersed in Jesus' Mission”

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

#167

The Church at Prayer

The Kidd Family, Ann Kelley, Sue Renovetz, Jon Thompson, Cliff Stenzel, Allison Colbert, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Russ King, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, 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 celebrate Messiah's birth,
a bold new age upon the earth
of justice, peace, and hope renewed.
Receive our gifts for greater good. Amen.**

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

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen.

Communion



Communion Music

Choral Cistercien pour une Élévation

Alain

THANKSGIVING PRAYER: [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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82

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.

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

Benediction

Postlude

Alla Hornpipe (from *Water Music*, Suite No. 2 in D)

Handel

Readings

First Reading

Acts 19:1-7 (NSRV)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11 (NSRV)

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Readings

Continuing Testament – Tao Te Ching #78, by Lao Tsu

Under heaven nothing is more soft and yielding than water.
Yet for attacking the solid and strong, nothing is better;
It has no equal.

The weak can overcome the strong;
The supple can overcome the brittle.
Under heaven everyone knows this,
Yet few put it into practice.

Therefore the wise know:
“The lowest servant of the kingdom,
is worthy to become its ruler.
Those willing to tackle the most unpleasant tasks,
become the best leaders in the world.

The truth often sounds paradoxical.



Announcements:

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Marilyn Pay, "In Loving Memory of my husband, Melvin Pay, and my son, Bob Pay."



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - BUCC Council has set the annual Congregational Meeting to approve the Budget and Slate of Officers for the 2024 Church Year for next Sunday, January 14, 2024, immediately following the regular worship service.

In lieu of the usual December meeting for presentation of the Slate of Officers and preliminary Budget, Council has agreed to prepare and send out this information to all congregation members via e-mail. Hard copies will be available at the office or mailed upon request to anyone who would prefer it. This will allow proper time for church members to review the Budget and Slate of Officers and respond to Council with comments or questions prior to the January 14th meeting.

Today's sanctuary art is by David Burdeny, entitled "The Four Shades of Water in Antarctica".

Attendance on Sunday, December 31st, 2023 – Adults: 68; Kids: 3; Livestream: 8; Total: 79

Special Thanks

JANUARY 7, 2023

Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Evie Novak Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader:	Kate Matthews
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Janet Renovetz
Snack:	Lois Lorenzo <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Snow Herder:	Wes Novak

JANUARY 14, 2024

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader:	Jill Zedan
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Flowers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snack:	Lois Lorenzo <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Snow Herder:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

hello 2024

NOTES: _____
