



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***

*"We shall
overcome
because the arc
of the moral
universe is long,
but it bends
toward justice."*

*– Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.*



2nd Sunday after Epiphany, January 14th, 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!

2nd Sunday after Epiphany January 14th, 2024

Prelude *I Woke Up This Morning* African American spiritual

"I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus, hallelujah."

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(based on Psalm 40)*

ONE: I waited patiently for GOD; who inclined and heard my cry. God lifts me up out of the pit, out of the miry clay

ALL: We will sing a new song! Our hearts overflow with gratitude!

ONE: God set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm. Many will see! Many will see and hear!

ALL: We will sing a new song! We gather in thanksgiving!

ONE: What a blessing to trust in God. How happy we are to turn from that which cannot satisfy.

ALL: We will sing a new song "Here I am, O, God," we have gathered to learn your pathways and follow in your footsteps.

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!

(Continued on next page)

Hymn of Praise

City of God (continued)

Schutte

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for God's people to set their hearts free.

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!

3. God is light; in God there is no darkness.
Let us walk in God's light, God's children, one and all.
O comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth. **(Refrain)**

(Words and Music: Dan Schutte, b. 1947; © 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music)

* INVOCATION: [UNISON]

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. In the words of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., “We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.”

You, God of eternal compassion, call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love. Let us know your presence among us now: Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour, may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus' name.

* Words 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 - 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Gospel Reading - John 1:43-51 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Continuing Testament - by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

The Master's Calling

Cockrell

Listen while you still can hear.

Listen while you still can hear the Master's call.

The Master's calling.

Bow down while your knees still bend. (twice)

The Master's calling, the Master's calling.

I don't want to run or walk away, walk away from Him. (twice)

Bind me to your side. Bind me to your side.

Seek Him though your eyes don't see. (twice)

The Master's calling. The Master's calling.

Praise Him while your lips still sing. (twice)

The Master's calling. The Master's calling.

I don't want to run or walk away, walk away from Him. (twice)

Bind me to your side. Bind me to your side.

Listen while you still can hear. Listen while you still can hear:

the Master's calling. The Master's calling.

(Music and Words: Thad Aaron Cockrell)

Sermon

"Come and See"

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#472

The Church at Prayer

The Kidd Family, Ann Kelley, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, George Snider, Joe Blasko, Russ King, Allison Colbert, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, "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 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

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

Small and large gifts, we give back to you, O Lord of All Given Things. May they be blessed. May we use them to keep our promises to you.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

We Shall Overcome

#570

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 repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Staff 1: A E A D Bm E
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Staff 2: A C#7 F#m Bm E7sus4 E7 A
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Benediction

Postlude

Keep the Dream Alive

Manuel

✿ LISTEN FOR ✿
God's Voice
IN EVERYTHING
YOU DO
Proverbs 3:7

Readings

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Now young Samuel was in the service of YHWH under Eli. In those days, the voice of YHWH was rarely heard - prophesy was uncommon. One night Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see, was sleeping in his bed. The lamp of God had not gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.

Then YHWH called to Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli saying, "You called. Here I am!"

Eli said, "I didn't call you. Now go back to sleep." He went back to sleep.

A second time, YHWH called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli. "Here I am!" Samuel said, "You called me."

Eli repeated, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel had not yet encountered YHWH, and the word of YHWH had not yet been revealed to him.

YHWH called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said once more, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli realized that YHWH was calling the boy.

So he said to Samuel, "Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called, say, 'Speak, YHWH, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to sleep.

And YHWH called, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Yes, YHWH, I am listening."

Gospel Reading

John 1:43-51 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

After Jesus had decided to leave for Galilee, he met Philip and said, "Follow me."

Philip came from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter. Philip sought out Nathanael and said to him, "We've found the One that Moses spoke of in the Law, the One about whom the prophets wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph."

"From Nazareth?" said Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

"Come and see," replied Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he remarked, "This one is a real Israelite. There is no guile in him."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked him.

Jesus answered, "Before Philip even went to call you, while you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you."

"Rabbi," said Nathanael, "you're God's Own; you're the ruler of Israel!"

Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You'll see much greater things than that." Jesus went on to tell them, "The truth of the matter is, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Chosen One."

Continuing Testament – Excerpts of a speech given in Monticello, NY, on April 8, 1962, by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There are three major social evils that are alive in our world today. These three evils are the evil of *war*, the evil of *economic injustice* and the evil of *racial injustice*.

War stacks our nations with national debt higher than mountains of gold. War fills our nations with orphans and widows. War sends people home psychologically deranged and physically handicapped. And we've got to come to see now that there is something basically and fundamentally wrong with a world that solves its problems on the battlefield.

The other problem is economic injustice. There is still in our world a great gulf between superfluous, inordinate wealth, and abject, deadening poverty. And we must always maintain a keen sensitivity to these conditions, for there is something wrong with a situation that will take the necessities from the masses and give luxuries to the classes.

Somehow, we are all caught into an inescapable network of mutuality tied into a single garment of destiny.

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament



The third evil is the evil of racial injustice. We have seen it in all of its ugly dimensions. We've seen it in the South. We've seen it in muddy Mississippi, crying out in the voice of little Emmett Till. We've seen it down in Leesburg, Georgia, where the church of God could be burned simply because people assembling in that church wanted to register and vote.

Three simple words explain the social revolution taking place. They aren't big words. One does not need to have a philosophical bent to understand them. They are three simple words: the word ALL, the word HERE,

and the word NOW. We don't want *some* of our rights. We don't want a few token handouts here and there. We are simply saying we want ALL of our rights, we want them HERE and we want freedom NOW.

And if the inexpressible cruelties of slavery couldn't stop us, certainly the opposition that we now face will not be able to stop us. And we will continue this struggle because we know that somehow, the heritage of our nation and the will of God are somehow tied up in our echoing demands.

And so we go on with this faith, and God grant that we together, all of the liberal forces, will move on toward that great day when all of God's children will be able to join together, realizing that all people are significant, that they are all God's children, realizing their dignity and worth.

Announcements:

******ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY******

The annual Congregational Meeting is today, immediately following the service. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the Budget and Slate of Officers for the 2024 Church Year.

BRAVER ANGELS - Braver Angels will be meeting in Pilgrim Hall, at 6 pm on the third Wednesday of every month, starting on January 17th. This group is leading the nation's largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the political divide. Through community gatherings, real debates, and grassroots leaders working together, Braver Angels is offering America what it needs to overcome the bitterness of our partisan divide. For more information, go to their website at: <https://braverangels.org/>

Attendance on Sunday, January 7th, 2024 – Adults: 61; Kids: 2; Livestream: 14; Total: 77

Special Thanks

JANUARY 14, 2023

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

thank you!



JANUARY 21, 2024

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager Annette Pedersen
Lay Reader:	Jim Duffy
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Lori Molesky
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
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>