



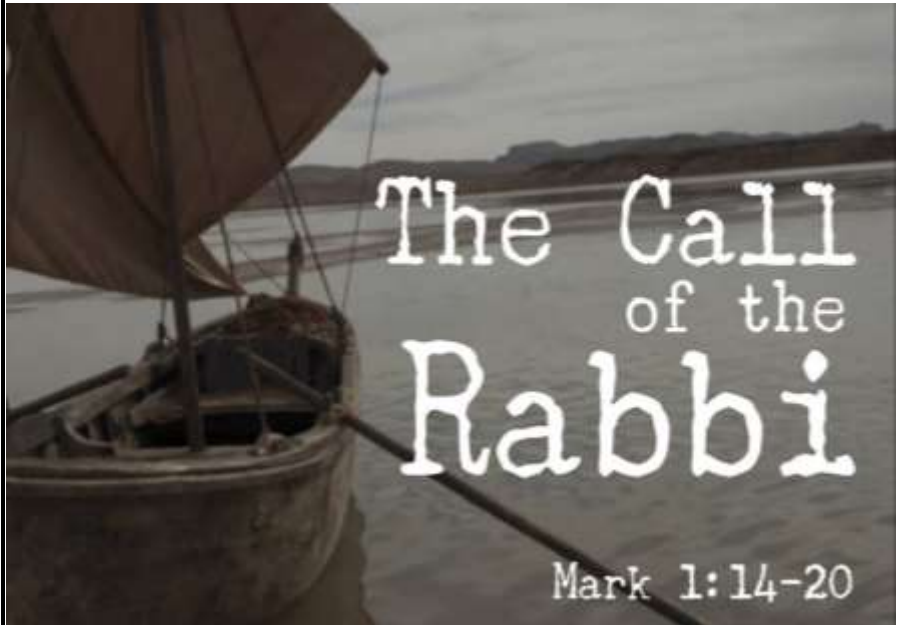
Brecksville United Church of Christ

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

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

*"Faith, for me,
isn't an
argument,
a catechism,
a philosophical
'proof.'
It is instead
a lens,
a way
of experiencing
life, and
a willingness
to act."*

- Sara Miles



3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 21st, 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!

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 21st, 2024

Prelude

The Summons Bell

*"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

(Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Copyright 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc.; tune: Scottish traditional)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"I have decided to stick with Love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
– Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Inspired by Psalm 62)*

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.

Hymn of Praise

***O Savior, Let Me Walk with You* #503**

*** INVOCATION:** [UNISON]

**God of all seasons, we enter into your presence with joy and thanksgiving.
We acknowledge all the ways that you meet us as we gather in your name.
May our songs and prayers resonate through the integrity of actions.**

*** 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 - Psalm 62 (The Inclusive Language translation)

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:14-20 (The Inclusive Language translation)

Continuing Testament - by Ted A. Smith



**Time with Young
Worshippers**



Anthem

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Traditional, setting
Carter

1. *I have decided to follow Jesus, (3 times)*
No turning back, no turning back.
2. *The world behind me, the cross before me, (3 times)*
No turning back, no turning back.
He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
3. *Though none go with me, still I will follow, (3 times)*
No turning back, no turning back.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me. (Repeat verse 1)
(Setting: John Carter; © 1985 by Hope Publishing Co.)

Sermon

"Spreading like Wild Fire"

by Pastor John King

The Church at Prayer

Ann Kelley, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, George Snider, Joe Blasko, Sister Francis Marie Seiler, 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]**

Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we gratefully return. They are expressions of our commitment to walk the path of discipleship. Amen.



Communion Music ***You Walk along Our Shoreline*** #504
(sung to the hymn tune AURELIA by Samuel S. Wesley, 1864)

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** ***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.*

(Music on opposite page)

* Sung during Circle of Community:

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 image shows a musical score for a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The chords are indicated by letters above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Benediction

Postlude

Ye Followers of the Lamb

Traditional Shaker song

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

Readings

First Reading

Psalm 62 (The Inclusive Language translation)

In God alone my soul finds rest, for my deliverance comes from God, who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress: I will never be shaken.

How long will you besiege me as though I were a crumbling wall or a tottering fence? They connive to push me off a cliff; they delight in telling lies. With their mouths they utter blessing, but in their hearts they curse.

In God alone my soul finds rest, for my deliverance comes from God, who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress: I will never be shaken. Only in God—my deliverance, my glory— my refuge is God. Trust in God always, my people; pour out your hearts before God our refuge.

Humankind is but a breath, mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off: they weigh less than a breath.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20 (The Inclusive Language translation)

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind." They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help and walked with Jesus.

Readings

Continuing Testament – By Ted A. Smith

In calling the Galilean fishermen to discipleship, Jesus does not just ask them to add one more task to their busy lives. He calls them into new ways of being. When Simon and Andrew leave their nets, they leave a way of life. This is even clearer with James and John, who leave not only their nets but also their father. These disciples leave behind a whole matrix of work, family, and place – all the stuff of a new identity.

The best translation of verse 17 will reflect this new identity. The NRSV had Jesus say, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” This makes it sound as if fishing for people were a *task*. The better translation receives fishing for people as a new *identity*. A literal translation might read, “Follow me and I will make you to become fishers for people.”

There is a world of difference between “I will make you fish” and “I will make you to become fishers.” “I will make you fish” gives us one more activity to work into our datebooks. (Right, Jesus, fish for people. How about every fourth Monday? Can anyone else do fourth Mondays?) But “I will make you to become fishers”? That promises a whole new life.

Announcements:



JANET RENOVETZ - After twelve plus years of coordinating volunteers and chancel flowers, Janet Renovetz is now stepping down from her leadership role. It is with much appreciation that we thank Janet for all those years of ensuring that we had beautiful flower displays on the altar and doors! She has been helped by a team of talented members willing to share their vision of floral beauty. The leadership baton has been passed to Peg Duffy and Kathy Pastor (it takes two people to replace Janet, of course), who wish to streamline the process and discover additional creative spirits! We cannot thank Janet enough, for the time, energy and talent she has cheerfully shared, and we lift your family in prayer as you support your daughter in Arizona.

SOUPS ON! Believe it or not, Lent is less than a month away! Please join us for our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper on February 14TH. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for soup at 6:30 pm, followed by the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a loaf of bread to share (those with last names beginning with N-Z will be asked to contribute bread on Maundy Thursday).

Side Note: BUCC has the most amazing chefs! We're looking for volunteers to make 1 ½ - 2 gallons of soup each - three for Ash Wednesday and three for Maundy Thursday. If you're looking for an eager and appreciative audience to try out a new recipe, or if you already know that you make a BUCC favorite, please sign up on Breeze, or let Betsey know. Thank you!

Special Thanks

JANUARY 21, 2023

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Annette Pedersen Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader:	Jim Duffy
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Counters:	Marge 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>

thank
you!



JANUARY 28, 2024

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Rose Kaval
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Kathy Pastor
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Flowers:	Annette Pedersen
Snack:	Jenn Elting <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Snow Herder:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

NOTES: _____
