



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*

*"In science and
in medicine
'I was a
stranger You
took me in'"*

- U2



4th Sunday after Epiphany, January 28th, 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!

UCC Health & Human Services Sunday

January 28th, 2024

Prelude

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

South African melody

With Percussion Group

"Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no."

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." - Alice Walker,

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, what hopes do you bring to prayer?

All: We bring hope for health and wholeness.

Leader: What afflictions do you bring to prayer? Physical pain?

All: From illness and injury.

Leader: Emotional pain?

All: From sad and scary life situations.

Leader: Mental pain?

All: From disease of many kinds.

Leader: With all of these afflictions, it's a miracle that any of us have made it to prayer this morning!

All: But where else would we be? We yearn to know God's powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible.

Leader: In today's gospel, a person with an *"afflicting spirit"* interrupts Jesus

All: And Jesus frees him.

(Continued on next page)

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (continued)**

Leader: And where does the miracle of his story and our stories begin?

All: When we bring all of who we are - hopeful, afflicted, bold - into relationship with the Divine.

Leader: So come, let us enter this sanctuary with our whole selves

All: - Hopeful, afflicted and bold –

Leader: Come, let us pray!

Hymn of Praise *Hear the Voice of God, So Tender* #174
(sung to the hymn tune HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard, 1844)

*** 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 - Galatians 5:19–23 (The Message translation)

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:21-28 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Continuing Testament - by U2



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

O Christ, the Healer

16th century German

1. *O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?*
2. *From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed;
Yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.*
3. *How strong, O Lord, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.*
4. *In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?*
5. *Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.*

(Music: From Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; words: Fred Pratt Green, Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Co.)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

#176

(sung to the hymn tune BEACH SPRING from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844)

The Church at Prayer

The Snider Family, Ann Kelley, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Sister Francis Marie Seiler, Russ King, Jon Thompson, Allison Colbert, 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]**

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love.

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.*

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 ***Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God*** Sung-ho Park

*"God is always watching over you, God is watching you with loving eyes.
God is hearing you in all your prayers; God is listening with tender, loving ears.
God shines light in every dark and fearful place we go
and will answer every little cry that you make,
so wherever you may go follow in God's holy way
and trust God to take you home."
(Text and Music Copyright © 2001 Sung-ho Park)*

Readings

First Reading

Galatians 5:19–23 (The Message translation)

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

But what happens when we live God's way? God brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

They came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. The people were spellbound by the teaching, because Jesus taught with an authority that was unlike their religious scholars. Suddenly a person with an unclean spirit appeared in their synagogue. It shrieked, "What do you want from us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked the spirit sharply: "Be quiet! Come out of that person!" At that the unclean spirit convulsed the possessed one violently, and with a loud shriek it came out. All who looked on were amazed. They began to ask one another, "What is this? A new teaching, and with such authority! This person even gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey!" Immediately news of Jesus spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Readings

Continuing Testament – By U2

Miracle Drug

I want a trip inside your head
Spend the day there
To hear the things you haven't
said
And see what you might see
I want to hear you when you call
Do you feel anything at all?
I want to see your thoughts take
shape
And walk right out
Freedom has a scent
Like the top of a new born baby's
head
The songs are in your eyes
I see them when you smile
I've seen enough I'm not giving up
On a miracle drug
Of science and the human heart
There is no limit
There is no failure here
sweetheart
Just when you quit
I am you and you are mine
Love makes nonsense of space
And time will disappear

Love and logic keep us clear
Reason is on our side, love
The songs are in your eyes
I see them when you smile
I've had enough of romantic love
I'd give it up, yeah, I'd give it up
For a miracle, a miracle drug
A miracle drug
God I need your help tonight
Beneath the noise
Below the din
I hear your voice
It's whispering
In science and in medicine
"I was a stranger
You took me in"
The songs are in your eyes
I see them when you smile
I've had enough of romantic love
Yeah I'd give it up, yeah, I'd give it
up
For a miracle, miracle drug
Miracle, miracle drug

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 her family in prayer as she supports her 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. 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). We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for soup at 6:30 pm, followed by the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00.

Special Thanks

JANUARY 28, 2024

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Rose Kaval
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Counters:	Marge Culver Kathy Pastor
A/V Team:	David Pastor
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>

Thank
you!



FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Jill Zedan
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Nancy Stella
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snack:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Snow Herder:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

Notes: _____
