



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*

*"It always
seems
impossible
until it's done."*

- Nelson Mandela,
released from prison
on this day,
February 11, 1990
after 27 years of
captivity. Four years
later, he was elected
president of
South Africa.

"This is my Son, the Beloved:
Listen to
him!"

- Mark 9:7

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th, 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!

Transfiguration Sunday/Mardi Gras

February 11th, 2024

Prelude

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

American folk song

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"The river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and only the present exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future."

— Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: Gathering in this sacred place, we anticipate new wonders each week.

All: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, God's Holy Spirit is present.

One: Open our eyes to witness the grace of your love and wonder of your presence waiting to be revealed, even on this day, even in this place.

All: We will want to linger on this mountaintop but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God's beautiful world, all about us. Amen

Hymn of Praise

Oh, When the Saints (See insert)

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. May our lives be a reflection of divine glory. Our world is hurting - may we bring light where there is darkness, and love that casts out hate. May we hear your voice speaking to us and saying, ... "Listen. You are my Child, my Beloved!" Amen.

* Pastor's Prayer

* 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 - 2 Kings 2:1-12

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:2-10

Continuing Testament - The Gospel of Nicodemus or The Acts of Pilate, Ch. 13



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

Gabriel/Habershon, arr. Rogers

*Refrain: Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?
There's a better home awaiting in the sky, Lord, in the sky.*

*1. There are loved ones in the glory whose dear forms you often miss,
When you close your earthly story, will you join them in their bliss? (Refrain)*

*2. In the joyous days of childhood, oft they told of wondrous love,
Pointed to the dying Savior, now they dwell with God above. (Refrain)*

*3. You remember songs of heaven which you sang with childish voice,
Do you love the hymns they taught you, or are songs of earth your choice? (Refrain)*

(Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932; lyrics: Ada R. Habershon, 1861-1918; arr. Kenny Rogers, 1938-2020)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (See insert)

The Church at Prayer

The Snider Family, Phyllis Hassler, Ann Kelley, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Sister Francis Marie Seiler, Russ King, Jon Thompson, Gayle 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 Music

What a Wonderful World

Weiss/Thiele

*** 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]**

With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to love and life. May our sacrifice be witness to our love for each other and the God who loves us all. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

#282

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, and A.

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Down by the Riverside/Oh, When the Saints

Traditional spirituals

Readings

First Reading **2 Kings 2:1-12**

When YHWH was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here. YHWH is sending me to Bethel.” “As YHWH lives, and you live,” said Elisha, “I will not leave you.” So they departed together for Bethel.

The disciples of the prophets in Bethel approached Elisha, asking, “Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “now be silent.”

Then Elijah spoke, “Stay here, Elisha. YHWH is sending me to Jericho.”

And Elisha replied, “As YHWH lives, and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

The disciples of prophets in Jericho approached Elisha, asking, “Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” he said, “now be silent.”

Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here. YHWH is sending me to the Jordan.”

“As YHWH lives and as you live,” said Elisha, “I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.

Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land. Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

Elisha replied, “Let me inherit some of your spirit,” he said.

“You ask a difficult thing,” Elijah said. “If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not.”

As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and cavalry of Israel!” And Elisha saw nothing more.

Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart. Elisha picked up the mantle that fell from Elijah and went back and stood there on the bank of the Jordan.

Readings

Gospel Reading - Jesus' Transfiguration **Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after he had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

Continuing Testament – The Gospel of Nicodemus, also known as The Acts of Pilate, Chapter 13

Charinus and Lenthius, the two sons of Simeon... said, "Give each of us some paper and we will write down for you all those things which we have seen." Then they each sat down and wrote:

We were placed with our ancestors in the depths of Sheol; then in the darkness of Sheol there suddenly appeared the color of the sun like gold and a deep purple – colored light that illuminated that place.

Then Adam, along with the ancestors and prophets rejoiced and said, "That light is the author of everlasting light who has promised to translate us to everlasting light."

Then Isaiah the prophet cried out saying, "This is the light of God and the Son of God, according to the prophecy I gave when I was alive upon earth... '*A people who walked in darkness, saw a great light; and to them who dwelled in the region of the shadow of death, light is arisen.*' And now he is come and has enlightened us who dwelt in death."

(Continued)

Readings

Continuing Testament (*continued*)

And while we were rejoicing in the light which shone upon us, our father Simeon came among us, and congratulating all the company said, "Glorify the Lord Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God, whom I took in my arms when an infant in the temple and being moved by the Holy Spirit said, '*Now my eyes have seen your salvation which you had prepared for all peoples, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.*'" And the saints in the depths of Sheol heard this and rejoiced all the more.

After this, a man who looked like a hermit came forth and everyone asked, "Who are you?"

He replied, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, John the Baptist, and the prophet of the Most High, who went before his coming to prepare his way, to give the knowledge of salvation to his people for the forgiveness of sins.

And I, John, when I saw Jesus coming to me, I was moved by the Holy Spirit and said, '*Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.*'

And I baptized him in the river Jordan, and saw the Holy Spirit descending upon him in the form of a dove, and heard a voice from heaven saying, '*This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.*'

Even as I went before him, I came here to declare to you that the Son of God will next visit us, and as the dayspring from on high, he will come to us who are in the darkness of the shadow of death."

Announcements:

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our guest musicians for sharing their awesome musical gifts with us for Mardi Gras! They are: Bob Gref on clarinet; Dave Shackle on trumpet; Steve Ostrow on trombone and violin; Mark Mazak on tuba; and Steve Kraus on banjo.

MARDI GRAS POTLUCK TODAY! Please join us after this morning's service, for a festive lunch in Fellowship Hall. And even if you didn't bring a dish to share, join us anyway – we always have tons of leftovers, and ALL ARE WELCOME!

ASH WEDNESDAY - Our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper is this coming Wednesday, February 14th. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for soup at 6:30 pm, followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. Many thanks to all who have signed up for various jobs that evening, and if your last name begins with A-L, please bring a loaf of bread to share. (Those whose names begin with M-Z will be asked to contribute bread on Maundy Thursday).

SEASONAL CHOIR starts NEXT Thursday, February 15th, from 7-7:45 PM. We practice weekly through Holy Week, which this year is March 24th (Palm Sunday) through March 31st (Easter). I've chosen some fun music that isn't too difficult, with a nice variety of styles. Hope you can join us next week as we prepare for the important services of Holy Week!



SAVE THE DATE! – The BUCC Spring Retreat will be on Saturday, March 9th, at the Greenwood Village Clubhouse. More information to come!

Today's sanctuary artwork is by Kim Kever, entitled "*Abstract 40422b*".

Attendance on Sunday, February 4th, 2024 – Adults: 76; Kids: 11; Live Stream: 8; Total: 95

Special Thanks



FEBRUARY 11, 2024

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Head Usher: | Diane Gressley |
| Ushers: | Evelyn Seager Volunteer Needed |
| Lay Reader: | Karen Sandstrom |
| Greeter: | Volunteer Needed |
| Counters: | Marge Culver Kathy Pastor |
| A/V Team: | Fred Pedersen |
| Flowers: | Katie MacKeigan King |
| Snack: | POTLUCK |
| Set Up/Serve: | Membership Min. |
| Clean Up: | Volunteers Needed |
| Snow Herder: | Volunteer Needed |



FEBRUARY 18, 2024

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Head Usher: | Volunteer Needed |
| Ushers: | Evelyn Seager Heidi Spangler Jim Duffy |
| Lay Reader: | |
| Greeter: | Volunteer Needed |
| Counters: | Marjorie Culver Kathy Pastor |
| A/V Team: | Volunteer Needed |
| Flowers: | Carol Miller |
| Snack: | Volunteers Needed |
| Set Up/Serve: | Carol Miller Volunteer Needed |
| Clean Up: | Volunteers Needed |
| Snow Herder: | Volunteer Needed |

NOTES: _____
