



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***

*"Do not be
dismayed by
the brokenness
in the world.
All things break.
And all things
can be mended.
Not with time,
as they say,
but with intention.
So go.
Love intentionally,
extravagantly,
unconditionally.
The broken world
waits in darkness
for the light
that is you."*

- L. R. Knost



Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10th, 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!

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10th, 2024

Prelude *Mercy (La Grace)* G. P. Telemann (1681-1767), arr. Hopson

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:**

Reader: God's love is for all of creation.

People: The vastness of God is for human, animal, soil, and sun, all together as God's beloved.

Reader: God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn us.

People: Jesus has come to live God's love in the flesh.

Reader: While the world is dim with injustice and the feeling of loneliness,

People: it is in Jesus that the light of love illumines our path of friendship.

Come, let us join our lives with the Friend, whose love is for the whole world. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise

What Wondrous Love Is This

#223

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

Eternal one, the vastness of your love flows through all of creation, and this is cause for rejoicing. For all the harshness and condemnation that we see in the world, you have come to us out of love, compassion, and to save us from ourselves. We acknowledge our belief that you have come to save, to heal, to restore, and forgive, not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light you bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*** Pastor's Prayer**

*** Song of Praise:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa 1988



Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - Psalm 62: (Psalms Anew translation)

Gospel Reading - John 3:14-17, 19-21 (Adapted from *The Message* translation)

Continuing Testament - by Bishop Michael Curry



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

God so Loved the World

Stainer

*God so loved the world that God gave the only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not the Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.*

(Music: John Stainer, 1840-1901; text: based on John 3:16-17)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

#605

The Church at Prayer

Phyllis Hassler, Ann Kelley, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, 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 Hymn We now are in the time of Lent,
 To learn again what Jesus meant.
 His life and message are so great,
 We send these gifts to celebrate! Amen.**

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

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world through love and no to the powers of oppression has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

God Loved the World

#208

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 **Hear Our Prayer, O God (below)**. 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.*



* Benediction

Postlude

Ricercare

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

(Musical definition: an elaborate instrumental composition in fugal or canonic style, typically of the 16th to 18th centuries)

Readings

First Reading

Psalms 62 (**Psalms Anew** translation)

For God alone my soul waits. My help comes from God, who alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm.

How long will you all attack me to break me down as though I were a tottering wall or a sagging fence? Their plan is only to destroy. They take pleasure in lies. With their mouths they utter blessing, but in their hearts they curse.

For God alone my soul waits; for my hope comes from God, who alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress. I stand firm.

In God is my salvation and glory, the rock of my strength. All you people, take refuge in God. Trusting at all times, pour out your hearts before God, our Refuge.

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-17, 19-21 (Adapted from **The Message** translation)

In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Holy One to be lifted up - and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

This is how much God loved the world: God sent the Son, so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in the Son, all can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending the Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. The Messiah came to save, to put the world right again.

This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but people everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.

Readings

Continuing Testament – by Bishop Michael Curry

Imagine a world where love is the way.

Imagine our homes and families when love is the way.

Imagine neighborhoods and communities when love is the way.

Imagine our governments and nations when love is the way.

Imagine business and commerce when love is the way.

Imagine this tired old world when love is the way.

When love is the way, unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive.

When love is the way, then no child would go to bed hungry in this world ever again.

When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook.

When love is the way, poverty would become history.

When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary.

When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields down by the riverside to study war no more.

When love is the way, there's plenty good room. Plenty good room. For all of God's children.

And when love is the way, we actually treat each other — well, like we're actually family.

When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are siblings. Children of God.

My brothers and sisters, that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world.
A new human family.

Announcements:

SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY – “One Great Hour of Sharing”

“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.”

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine...”

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five. Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God’s love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message - our light is on a light stand, for all to see - shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS. Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously. Share the light! Thank you.

EASTER FLOWERS – Today is the last day to purchase Easter Flower dedications. The order form can be found on the last page of this bulletin – please turn it in during the collection. Thank you!

IT IS TIME FOR GAME NIGHT! Join us on Saturday, March 23rd, at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for our next game night. We will provide drinks and would love it if you’d bring a snack to share. Join us for a fun evening of games - dominoes, euchre, and/or whatever games you like! Invite a friend or come alone, and call Kathy Smith if you have any questions.

Attendance on Sunday, March 3, 2024 – Adults: 74; Kids: 7; Live Stream: 18; Total: 99

Special Thanks

MARCH 10, 2024

Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Flowers: LENT
Counters: Marge Culver
Lori Molesky
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Snack: ***Volunteers Needed***
Set Up/Serve: Carol Miller
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***

Thank
You



MARCH 17, 2024

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Flowers: LENT
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Snack: Peg Duffy
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***



CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY

This year we will be using azaleas as our dedication flowers. You may take your flower home after the Easter service, otherwise your plant will be shared with someone who is ill or shut-in, or has recently lost a loved one. Please fill out this form and turn it in to the Church Office or the collection basket. Thank you!

DEADLINE – March 10

I Enclose \$13.00 for an Easter Plant - cash: _____ **check #:** _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Other: _____

Your Name(s): _____

Please check one:

I will take the flower _____

I will leave the flower for church use _____

Notes: _____
