



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***

*"Keep my heart
soft enough to
keep breaking.
Keep my anger
turned towards
justice, not cruelty.
Remind me that all
of this, every bit of
it is for love. Keep
me fiercely kind."*

*- Laura Jean
Truman*



Palm Sunday, March 24th, 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 - 12:30pm

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!

Palm Sunday - March 24th, 2024

Prelude ***This is Our God (Meekness and Majesty)*** Kendrick
Welcome & Announcements
Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"The gospel calls us to experience the kingdom of God in the faces of the poor, the marginalized, and the suffering. The gospel calls us to a radical way of love that transforms this world of violence and fear."

- St. Oscar Romero, 1979 Palm Sunday Sermon.

Archbishop Romero was assassinated in El Salvador on March 24, 1980

The Liturgy of the Palms

Please Stand as you are able and face the Narthex (back of church)

* First Gospel Reading

John 12:12-15 (The Voice Translation)

The huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel!"

Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it:

"No fear, Daughter Zion: See how your king comes, riding a donkey's colt."

* Palm Procession

Hosanna

Gregory Norbert

Betsey Wilson, flute; Dave Shackle, trumpet; Percussion Group

Refrain (sing 4 time between choir verses)



Time With Young Worshipers

*** Song of Praise:**

Gathered Here

Porter

Text & music: Phil Porter, 1990

1 2

Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong

3 4

bod - y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

(This Chant may be sung as a round.)

First Reading – Philippians 2:5-11 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Christ, though in the image of God, didn't deem equality with God something to be clung to— but instead became completely empty and took on the image of oppressed humankind: born into the human condition, found in the likeness of a human being.

Jesus was thus humbled— obediently accepting death, even death on a cross! Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God: Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

Continuing Testament – From The Last Week, by John Dominic Crossan

Mark narrates two events that provide two interpretive comments about what has happened. The first is the tearing of the temple curtain: “And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom” (15:38). As with the darkness from noon to 3 PM, this event is best understood symbolically and not as history remembered.

The curtain separated the holiest part of the temple sanctuary—the Holy of Holies—from the rest of the sanctuary. The Holy of Holies was understood to be the particular place of God's presence: God was most present, concentratedly present, in the innermost part of the sanctuary. So sacred was this part of the sanctuary that only the high priest was permitted to enter it, and only on one day of the year.

To say, as Mark does, that the curtain was torn in two has a twofold meaning. On the one hand, it is a judgment upon the temple and the temple authorities, the local authorities who colluded with imperial Rome to condemn Jesus to death. On the other hand, it is an affirmation. To say that the curtain, the veil, has been torn is to affirm that the execution of Jesus means that access to the presence of God is now open.

Continuing Testament *(continued)*

This affirmation underlines Mark's presentation of Jesus earlier in the gospel: Jesus mediated access to God apart from the temple and the domination system that it had come to represent in the first century.

Then Mark narrates a second event contemporaneous with Jesus's death. The imperial centurion in command of the soldiers who had crucified Jesus exclaims, "Truly this man was God's Son" (15:30). He is the first human in Mark's gospel to call Jesus "God's Son." Not even Jesus's followers speak of him this way in Mark's story.

That this exclamation comes from a centurion is very significant. According to Roman imperial theology, the emperor was "Son of God"—the revelation of God's power and will for the earth. According to the same theology, the emperor was Lord, Savior, and the one who had brought peace on earth. But now a representative of Rome affirms that this man, Jesus, executed by the empire, is the Son of God. Thus the emperor is not. In the exclamation of the centurion responsible for Jesus's execution, who saw him up close, empire testifies against itself.

Anthem

His the Scepter

Nagy

*His the scepter, His the throne, His the glory, His alone:
Jesus Christ, He is King of kings!*

*His the vict'ry, His the crown; bring your branches, lay them down.
Jesus Christ, He is King of kings!*

*Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold your King is coming,
your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey,
even the foal of a donkey."*

*His the conquest, His the praise; lift your voices, anthems raise:
Jesus Christ, He is King of Kings!*

*Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna! Hosanna, Lord of lords.
Hosanna! Let heaven cry, "Hosanna!,"
and earth reply, "Hosanna!," to Jesus Christ the Lord.*

*Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Behold your King!
Hosanna! Hosanna, Lord of lords. To Him we sing!
Hosanna! Let all things shout, "Hosanna!"*

The stones cry out, "Hosanna!," to Jesus Christ the Lord.

*His the scepter, His the throne, His the glory, His alone:
Jesus Christ, He is King of kings!*

(Music: Russell Nagy; words: Joel Nagy; Copyright © 1999 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

Gospel Reading *(See supplement)*

Sermon by Pastor John King

The Church at Prayer

Ann Kelley, Phyllis Hassler, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, 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

*** The Invitation**

Offertory Anthem

Sanctus

Fauré

*Translation: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

(Music: From Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 by Gabriel Fauré, 1845-1924; text: based on Isaiah 6:3, and Matthew 21:9)

*** 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 Dedication: [Unison]**

Loving God, as Hosannas fade to cries of despair, may these gifts be used for peacemaking that settles strife and justice-seeking that creates all good hope. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

#215

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

* Circle of Community

Hear Our Prayer, O God



* Benediction

Postlude

March in B flat Major

Debick

Announcements:

UPCOMING COMMUNION DATES - March 31 (Easter) and April 7. Then we'll return to the first and third Sunday of the month. FYI!

HOLY WEEK - I encourage you to participate fully and invite your family to share in all of the events of Holy Week.

March 28, 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday –Jesus introduced another layer of meaning to the Passover, as he broke bread and told us, “Do this in memory of me.” Dinner begins at 6:30, immediately followed by the service at 7:00.

March 29, 7:30 pm - Good Friday – Our observance of Tenebrae – gradually extinguishing candles and plunging the church into darkness – powerfully symbolizes the hour when the Light of the World was extinguished as Jesus died on the cross.

March 31, 10 am - Easter Sunday - Make plans now to bring your whole family on Easter morning!

EASTER EGG HUNT - We will continue our tradition of a children's Easter Egg Hunt immediately following worship on Easter Sunday. Ms. Mindy will gather the children BY THE COAT RACKS IN THE NARTHEX. Please help us keep the stairway clear for those adults heading down to coffee hour or outside to watch the festivities. Parents and other willing adults will be asked to exit first to provide a safe perimeter for the children. Now all we have to do is hope for good weather!

GOSPEL SUNDAY - We are thrilled to announce that Angela Lynard, formerly the music minister at Amistad Chapel UCC and a longtime gospel singer at Pilgrim UCC in Cleveland, will join us for our regular service at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 7 as guest hymn leader and gospel soloist. In collaboration with Dave Debick and the BUCC choir, Angie will lead songs from the *New Century Hymnal* and *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, published by the UCC's Pilgrim Press. Please join us for what promises to be a joyful and uplifting service for the second Sunday of Easter.

Special Thanks:



March 24, 2024

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Flowers: LENT
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Carol Miller
Annette Pedersen
Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*
Snow Herder: *Volunteer Needed*



March 31, 2024

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: *Volunteer Needed*
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Flowers: Easter Dedications
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Snack: Jenn Elting
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Jenn Elting
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*
Snow Herder: *Volunteer Needed*

Attendance on Sunday, March 17, 2024 – Adults: 78; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 6; Total: 92