



# 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 is such  
a letdown  
to rise from  
the dead  
and have  
your friends  
not recognize  
you."

- Rob Bell,  
21st century



He  
is  
Risen

**Easter Sunday - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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# Easter Sunday – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Prelude**

*Prelude in C Major*

J. Massenet (1848-1912)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Meditation Music**

*All Heaven Declares*

Noel and Tricia Richards

Betsey Wilson, flute; David Pastor, Dave Shackle and  
Craig Ramsey, guitar; Percussion Group

*"All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord; who can compare with the beauty of the Lord? Forever he will be the Lamb upon the throne; I gladly bow the knee, and worship him alone."*  
(Words and Music © 1987, Thankyou Music)

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*"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget  
the joy of Christ risen." - Mother Teresa, 20th century*

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## **Gathering in God's Presence**

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**\* Call to Worship:** *(based on Psalm 118 & John 20)*

One: Easter morning announces the Resurrection of Jesus!

**All: We gather to join our voices to those of Earth and Heaven. We celebrate the new life that God is bringing forth!**

One: This is the day that God has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: Out of the doom of death and despair - Victory comes, glory appears.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds of the God whose love endures forever.

**All: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

**\* Hymn of Praise**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

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**\* Assurance of Grace:** [UNISON]

**We know that you can bring us back to life, O God - That you meet us in the shadows and call us to Abundant life. Eternal life. Love that goes on. Grace that is victorious. With the fresh breath of the Holy Spirit, we are revived. We live again! Amen.**

**\* Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glory, glory, glory –  
glory to God in the highest! (2X's)  
And on earth be peace to all people,  
for God loves us all! (2X's)

***Readings***

**(See back of bulletin for complete readings)**

First Reading **Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (The Voice Translation)**

Gospel Reading **Mark 16:1–8 (NRSV translation)**

Continuing Testament by Kate Matthews

**Youth Anthem**

***Celebrate Jesus***

Oliver

*Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, celebrate Jesus, celebrate. (twice)*  
*He is risen, He is risen, and He lives forevermore;*  
*He is risen, He is risen, come on and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.*  
(Words and Music: Gary Oliver; © 1988 Integrity Music, Inc.)



***Time With Young Worshipers  
& Baptism of Genevieve Valerie Southam***

**Anthem**

***Awake Thou Wintry Earth***

J. S. Bach

*1. Awake thou wintry earth, fling off, fling off thy sadness.  
Ye vernal flowers laugh forth, laugh forth your ancient gladness.  
A new and lovely tale throughout the land is sped;  
It floats o'er hill and dale to tell that death is dead.*

*2. Descended to the grave, where our beloved lie sleeping,  
Hath Christ returned to save our hearts from woe and weeping.  
O earth, break forth and sing, renew thy bright array,  
With fairest blooms of spring bestrew the Saviour's way.*

(Music: J. S. Bach, 1685-1750, from Cantata 129, movement 5; text: Thomas Blackburne, 1821-1859)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

***The Strife Is O'er***

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## ***The Church at Prayer***

The Family and Friends of Ann Kelly, Leroy Ford, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Frable, 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**

#### ***Easter Song***

Herring, arr. Rouse

*Hear the bells ringing: they're singing that we can be born again.*

*Hear the bells ringing: they're singing, "Christ is risen from the dead."*

*The angel up on the tombstone said, "He is risen just as He said.*

*Quickly now, go tell His disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead!"*

*Joy to the world! He is risen. Hallelujah! He's risen. Hallelujah! He's risen. Hallelujah!*

*Christ is risen from the dead! Hallelujah! He's alive!*

*(Words and Music: Annie Herring; arr. Jay Rouse; © 1974 and this arr. © 2019 Latter Rain Music, ASCAP)*

### **\* Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care,  
They are a part of what we share.  
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.  
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

# Holy Communion

## Communion Music

## *Christ Is Alive*

Bray

*"Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate  
and the stars and the suns shout on this joyful Day!  
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate  
in a great alleluia, a great alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.*

(Music: Jillian Bray, 1939-2018; words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020; words and music © 1993 Hope Publishing Co.)

## Prayer after Communion: [UNISON]

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## *Going with God's Love*

### \* Hymn of Departure

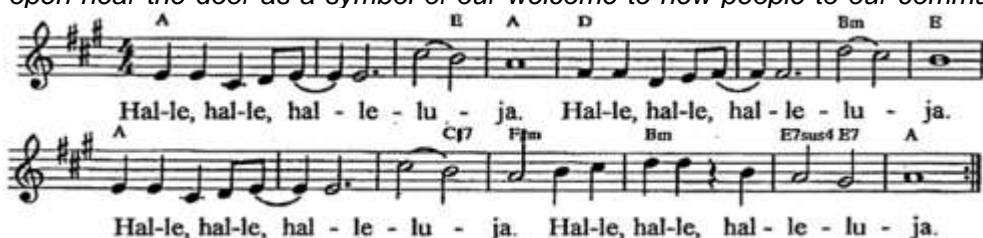
### *The Day of Resurrection*

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## 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.



### \* Benediction

## Postlude

## *Hallelujah! (from The Messiah)*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

*"Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection  
shall have a little golden tail." - Martin Luther, 16th century*

# Announcements:



*See back of bulletin for Easter Flower Dedications*



**THANK YOU FROM SPIRITUAL LIFE** – Our Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday observances were made much brighter by the seven magicians who provided homemade soup. We are so grateful to Lois Lorenzo, Anne Melfo, Tina Posey, Sherrill Witt, Karen Sandstrom, Connie Schultz and Jenn Elting (x2!) for their delicious contributions. We are so spoiled! And many thanks also to Kate Matthews for providing chocolates for our unique Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day observance. What an indulgence!

**EASTER EGG HUNT** – We will continue our tradition of a children's Easter Egg Hunt immediately following worship today. 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.

**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.

Attendance on Sunday, March 24, 2024 – Adults: 76; Kids: 5; Live Stream: 7; Total: 88

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (The Voice Translation)

Peter stood up and said: “It is clear to me now that God plays no favorites, that God accepts every person whatever their culture or ethnic background, that God welcomes all who are reverent and do right.

*You already know that* God sent a message to the people of Israel; it was a message of peace, peace through Jesus the Anointed—who is King of all people. You know this message spread through Judea, beginning in Galilee where John called people to be ritually cleansed through baptism. You know God identified Jesus as the uniquely chosen One by pouring out the Holy Spirit on Him, by empowering Him. You know Jesus went through the land doing good *for all* and healing all who were suffering under the oppression of evil, for God was with Him.

My friends and I stand as witnesses to all Jesus did in *the region of Judea and the city of Jerusalem*. The people of our capital city killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him up on the third day and made it possible for us to see Him.

Not everyone was granted this privilege, only those of us whom God chose as witnesses. We actually ate and drank with Him after His resurrection. He told us to spread His message to everyone and to tell them that He is the One whom God has chosen to be Judge, *to make a just assessment of all people* - both living and dead. All the prophets tell us about Him and assert that every person who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

### Gospel Reading

#### Mark 16:1–8 (NRSV translation)

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



## Readings

### **Continuing Testament – By Kate Matthews**

In all of our Easter finery, in our celebration and our Alleluias, in flowers and white cloths, it jars our sensibilities to be reminded of Good Friday, to think that we worship an "executed God." At the heart of the Gospel of Mark is the way of the cross.

The passage begins with the quiet appearance of women, coming from the sidelines of the story to tend to what needs to be done, caring for Jesus' body even after death. We can only imagine how they planned to accomplish their task, what drew them back to a place of loss and pain in order to perform an act of tender care.

They had just witnessed brutality that was unusual even in a day of great brutality, under the heel of a brutal empire. Their hearts were surely broken, their minds undoubtedly confused, their lives suddenly without the direction they might have sensed while Jesus was with them.

The tomb turns out to be one of those "spaces where so much of life unfolds," Serene Jones writes, "the hard work of loving, of being present, the grit that allows human life to keep going in the very moments that it encounters the reality of violence and relentless march of death." She claims that God is there, even in the places of death where we are "broken by violence and by love and by the sheer exhaustion of the labor it takes to go on."

That stone is worth some of our time in reflection, too. As a metaphor for everything that keeps us from faithfulness, that large stone seems immovable and makes faith (especially as trust) seem impossible. For the women, the other disciples, Mark's community, and for us today, the call is to Galilee and a new beginning, setting out on the way again, following Jesus faithfully, this time with the terrible knowledge of his suffering and death but also with the world-changing awareness of his resurrection.

One scholar says, "The stone is a symbol for everything that blocks the way. It may be different for each, but for everyone it is a very large stone."<sup>1</sup> We may not want to see or face certain things, but all of us need to remember the path that has brought us this far, and the failures we experienced along the way, just like the disciples so long ago.

*(Continued on next page)*

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<sup>1</sup> From Megan McKenna's book On Your Mark drawing on the work of Eugene LaVerdiere's The Beginning of the Gospel

## Readings

### Continuing Testament *(continued)*

No wonder we tell this story, then, that is central to who we are as a community of faith, a band of believers, two thousand years later. We tell the story of life, even in the face of suffering and death. Setting out on the path of discipleship, perhaps a little more conscious of the cost of that discipleship after our Lenten observance, we do not travel alone. We have one another, we have and are the Body of Christ, the church in the world, and we have a call. Things may never be the same, our assumptions may never be safe, but we are not alone. Charles Campbell has said it beautifully: "Jesus is loose in the world. He is not in our present as a lifeless corpse or in our past as a distant memory. Rather, he goes ahead of us into the future to meet us there and claim us, not on our terms, but on his."

### PRIVACY MATTERS

Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind:

- Children who come up for the "Time with Young Worshipers" will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online.
- We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But keep in mind that HIPAA laws do not permit us to disclose personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either:
  - Ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers, OR
  - Keep them anonymous by the way you phrase your prayer.
- If you sit in the first few pews, you will be visible online. If you prefer to avoid being seen online, avoid those pews. But if you don't mind, please consider migrating to the front pews. When our videos show empty pews, the sanctuary looks vacant even when it is full. So, please populate those first pews to ensure that our online presence accurately depicts the vibrant and growing congregation that we truly are.

# Special Thanks:

## MARCH 31, 2024

**Head Usher:** Evie Novak  
**Ushers:** Allison Colbert  
Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Rose Kaval  
**Greeter:** Lori Molesky  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Peace Candle:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers:** EASTER FLOWERS  
**Snack:** Jenn Elting  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Set Up/Serve:** Jenn Elting  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Snow Herder:** *Volunteer Needed*



## APRIL 7, 2024

**Head Usher:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Ushers:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Lay Reader:** Kate Matthews  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Peace Candle:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**A/V Team:** David Pastor  
**Flowers:** Sue Stenzel  
**Snack:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Set Up/Serve:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Snow Herder:** *Volunteer Needed*



## 2024 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

### Dedicated by:

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Jim & Peg Duffy                  | In memory of Aunt Jill & Cindy McManaman<br>In honor of Peg's Parents, Bob & Jackie Henry, on their<br>70 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary                                     |
| Armand Eusano &<br>Jeff Thompson | In memory of Ann & Robert Eusano<br>In memory of Ginny & Jim Thompson<br>In memory of Lee Ann Candela   |
| Shelley Forbes                   | In loving memory of my parents, Benjamin & Lucille<br>Forbes, and my grandparents, Mildred & Elmer Wright   |
| Joy Garapic                      | In memory of William Garapic – husband, father and<br>grandfather   |
| Lois Lorenzo                     | In memory of Rudy Lorenzo   |
| Carol Miller & Pat Rehm          | In memory of deceased members of the Urban and Rehm<br>families<br>In Memory of Kathleen Unetic<br>In memory of Rob Miller<br>In honor of the Dunn and Rehm great grandchildren |
| Bettina Ortiz                    | In memory of Betty, Joe & Timothy Ortiz<br>In memory of David King & Dennis Rini  |
| Annette & Fred Pedersen          | In Memory of Russ Pedersen  |
| Robert Petrus                    | In memory of Elizabeth Jefferson  |
| Bill & Sherrill Witt             | For the joy of the church   |

