



# Brecksville

---

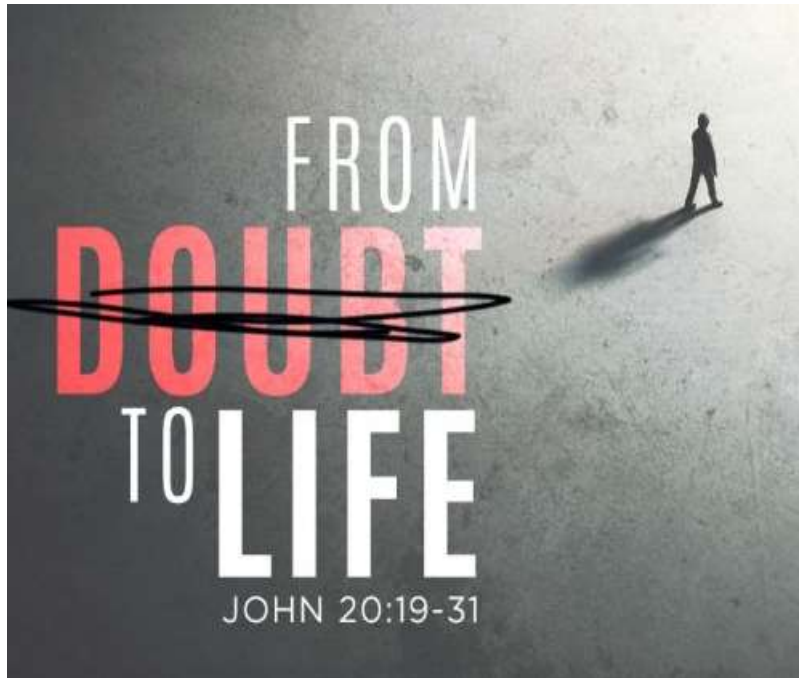
# United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People  
with God's Life-Changing Power*

*"If anyone or anything tries to curse or kill the Goodness at the Center of all things, it will just keep coming back to life. Forever Easter."*

- David Housholder,  
*The Blackberry Bush*, 21st century



**Second Sunday of Easter, April 7<sup>th</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 - 1:30pm**

**Church Phone: 440-526-4364**

**e-mail: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

# Second Sunday of Easter – Gospel Sunday

## April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Prelude

*We Have Come into This House*  
Angela Lynard, vocalist

Ballinger

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

—————  
"Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother." - Khalil Gibran  
—————

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God's strong and loving hands are outstretched to all Creation.

**All: Let the world stretch forth and grasp God's hands with joy.**

Leader: God's open hands are as the gate of righteousness.

**All: Let us enter in to God's abundant life and give thanks.**

Leader: In God's hands are new life, strength, and salvation.

**All: Let us be thankful and sing unto our God with gladness.**

Hymn of Praise

***Glory, Glory Hallelujah***

#2

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

O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love. We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace. Our week has left worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices, and unexpected disappointments. We are weary. Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens as we empty our cares into your loving hands. Extend to us your joy. Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life! Pour into us the freshness of your new life; for you are our strength and our might. How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us. Amen! Alleluia!

\* 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 - Acts 4:32-337 (NRSV translation)**

**Gospel Reading - John 20:19-31 (The Voice Translation)**

**Continuing Testament - by Rumi**



*Time with Young Worshipers*



**Musical Offering**

***Holy Is the Name***

Lewis

Angela Lynard, vocalist

**Sermon**

**“Touching Christ”**

by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

***Bless That Wonderful Name of Jesus*** (see insert)

## ***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***

### **\* Invitation to the Offering**

#### **Offertory Hymn**

***Children of God*** (see insert)

### **\* Doxology: [UNISON]**

**Our Lord has risen as he said,  
And life has triumphed over death.  
We celebrate these holy days  
With gifts of gratitude and grace. Amen.**

### **\* OFFERTORY PRAYER: [UNISON]**

**From our hearts and from our hands,  
we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you,  
O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen! Alleluia!**

## ***Communion***



**Communion Hymn**

***Come to the Table***

Hamm

1. Come to the table of grace. (twice)  
This is Christ's table not just yours or mine.  
Come to the table of grace.

2. Come to the table of peace...

3. Come to the table of love...

4. Come to the table of joy...

(Words and Music: Barbara Hamm, Copyright © 2008)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.**

**Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure

*I'll Fly Away*

#595

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 image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The notes are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

\* Benediction

Postlude

*I Woke Up This Morning*

Traditional Gospel

## Readings

### **First Reading**

#### **Acts 4:32-337 (NRSV translation)**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **John 20:19-31 (The Voice Translation)**

Mary Magdalene went directly from the tomb to Jesus's disciples. She exclaimed, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she told them everything Jesus said to her.

On that same evening of Resurrection Sunday, the disciples gathered together behind locked doors in fear that some of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem were still searching for them. Out of nowhere, Jesus appeared in the center of the room.

Jesus said, "Peace."

As He was speaking, He revealed the wounds in His hands and side. The disciples began to celebrate as it sank in that they were really seeing the Lord.

Jesus said again, "Peace. In the same way Abba God sent Me, I am now sending you.

Now Jesus drew so close to each of them that they could feel His breath. Jesus breathed on them and said, "Welcome the Spirit of the living God. You now have the mantle of God's forgiveness. As you go, you can share this life-giving power to forgive sins."



## Readings

### **Gospel Reading** (*continued*)

Now, all of the eleven were present with the exception of Thomas. He heard their accounts of their interaction with Jesus. The other disciples told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas said, “Until I see His hands, feel the wounds of the nails, and put my hand to His side, I won’t believe what you are saying.”

Eight days later, they gathered again behind locked doors; and Jesus reappeared. But this time Thomas was with them.

Jesus said, “Peace.” Then he approached Thomas. “Reach out and touch Me. See the punctures in My hands; reach out your hand, and put it into My side; leave behind your faithlessness, and believe.”

Thomas, filled with emotion, said, “You are the one True God and Lord of my life!”

Jesus answered: “Thomas, you have faith because you have seen Me. Blessed are all those who never see Me and yet they still believe.”

Jesus performed other wondrous signs that are not written in this book. These accounts are recorded so that you, too, might believe that Jesus is the Anointed, the Liberating King, the Son of God. Accept the life He came to share.

### **Continuing Testament** – by Rumi

You are the unconditioned Spirit  
trapped in conditions.  
The Sun in eclipse.  
There is a light seed grain inside.  
You fill it with yourself, or it dies.

# *Announcements:*

**A WARM WELCOME** to Angela Lynard, our hymn leader and gospel soloist this morning - we greatly appreciate you sharing your awesome musical gifts with BUCC!

**SAVE THE DATE** - On Sunday May 19 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville United Church of Christ will host a free concert featuring the **Cleveland State University Percussion Ensemble**, directed by Luke Rinderknecht. The program will include works by Becker, Cage, Green, Keown, Marceau, and Mellits. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program.



Attendance on Sunday, March 31, 2024 – Adults: 137; Kids: 19; Live Stream: 24; Total: 180

# Special Thanks

## APRIL 7, 2024

**Head Usher:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Ushers:** Betsey & Joe Wilson  
**Lay Reader:** Kate Matthews  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Flowers:** Katie MacKeigan King  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** David Pastor  
**Snack:** Lois Lorenzo  
Katie MacKeigan King  
**Set Up/Serve:** Annette Pedersen  
*Volunteer Needed*  
**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Snow Herder:** *Volunteer Needed*

Thank  
You



## APRIL 14, 2024

**Head Usher:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Ushers:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Lay Reader:** Kate Matthews  
**Greeter:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Flowers:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Counters:** Marjorie Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** Jim Duffy  
**Snack:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Set Up/Serve:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Snow Herder:** *Volunteer Needed*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_