



# Brecksville

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# 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*

*“New life never  
slips in the back  
door quietly or  
painlessly.”*

*-- Cynthia Gano  
Lindner*



**Third Sunday of Easter, April 14<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!**

# April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude

***Come, Celebrate with Thanksgiving*** Auzu (Bolivia)  
With Percussion Group

*"With voices and happy drumming let us sing the triumph song.  
God is alive and among us, now our dancing hearts rejoice!"*  
(Mortimer Arias, alt.; 1924-2016; © 1968, 1973 Mortimer Arias)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

—————  
*"Wake up and smell the possibility." - Alice Walker*  
—————

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: Like the disciples who met the risen Christ,

**All: we come hoping for unexpected appearances of God's love.**

One: We come with our questions and confusion, and listen for Christ to appear in our midst saying:

**All: "Peace be with you."**

One: We hear the stories of God's love in the Scriptures,

**All: and we know that God is still speaking!**

One: We look around at our neighbors and guests, and see the power of the risen Christ at work in their lives, offering peace, offering hope, offering courage.

**All: We are witnesses to the miraculous love of Jesus! Come, let us worship!**

Hymn of Praise

***Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain***

#230

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

Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. Risen One, as we travel our own road to Emmaus, you walk with us, though you are often unnoticed and unrecognized. As we walk with you, and hear your still-speaking voice, our hearts burn within us. Teach us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that those who hunger for spiritual nourishment may be revived by our witness to your grace.

**\* 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 - 1 John 3:1-7 (. The Inclusive Bible)**

**Gospel Reading - Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - by Barbara Brown Taylor**



**Time with Young Worshipers**



***I Know that My Redeemer Lives* Setting Parker/Debick**

1. *I know that my Redeemer lives, glory, hallelujah!*  
*What comfort this sweet sentence gives, glory, hallelujah!*  
*Shout on, pray, we're gaining ground, glory, hallelujah!*  
*The dead's alive and the lost is found, glory, hallelujah!*
2. *He lives to bless me with his love, glory, hallelujah!*  
*He lives to plead for me above, glory, hallelujah!*  
*He lives, my hungry soul to feed, glory, hallelujah!*  
*He lives, to help in time of need, glory, hallelujah!*
3. *He lives, all glory to his name, glory, hallelujah!*  
*He lives, my Savior still the same, glory, hallelujah!*  
*What joy the bless'd assurance gives, glory, hallelujah!*  
*I know that my Redeemer lives, glory, hallelujah!*

(Tune: *Social Harp*, 1855, attr. F. C. Wood; setting: Alice Parker © 2010; text: attr. Samuel Medley, 1738-1799)

**Sermon by Pastor John King**

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

The Family and Friends of David Ritchey, of Ann Kelly and of Joanne Frable, Leroy Ford, 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***

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

**\* 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]**

**Life-Giving God, may you bless our gifts and let them go forth from us to benefit all of your children with wisdom, compassion, and imagination.  
Amen.**

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure      *Now the Green Blade Rises*

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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.

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'. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written below the staff. Above the staff, the chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E are indicated. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written below the staff. Above the staff, the chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A are indicated.

### \* Benediction

Postlude

*Because You Live, O Christ*

Melody in *David's Psalmen*, 1685

## Readings

### First Reading

#### 1 John 3:1-7 (. The Inclusive Bible)

See what love Abba God has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized God. My dear friends, now we are God's children, but it has not been revealed what we are to become in the future. We know that when it comes to light we will be like God, for we will see God as God really is. All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

## Readings

### Gospel Reading (*continued*)

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### Continuing Testament – From "*Home by Another Way*" by Barbara Brown Taylor

"Look at my hands and my feet," Jesus said, and when they did, they saw everything he had ever been to them. They saw the hands that had broken bread and blessed broiled fish, holding it out to them over and over again. They saw the hands that had pressed pads of mud against a blind man's eyes and taken a dead girl by the hand so that she rose and walked. They saw the hands that danced through the air when he taught, the same hands that reached out to touch a leper without pausing or holding back.

And his feet - the ones that had carried him hundreds of miles, taking his good news to all who were starving for it - into the homes of criminals and corrupt bureaucrats, whom he treated like long-lost kin; into the graveyard where the Gerasene demoniac lived like a wild dog among the dead, whom he freed from his devils forever.



## Readings

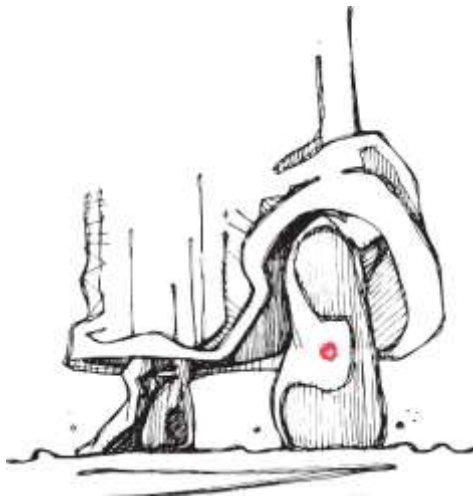
### Continuing Testament (*continued*)

Looking at those feet, they remembered the vulgar woman who had wet them with her tears and dried them with her hair, and Mary, who had sat there quietly protected by him while her sister Martha railed at her to get up and work.

They were wounded now - all of them - the hands that had joined him to other people and the feet that had joined him to the earth. They had holes in them, sore angry-looking bruises that hurt them to look at, only it was important for the disciples to look, because they had never done it before. Earlier, when they had figured out what was coming to those beloved hands and feet, they had fled, hiding themselves away where they could not see the bleeding nor hear the pounding of the hammers.

Look, he said to them afterwards, when the danger was past, you can look at them now. He wanted them to know he had gone through the danger and not around it, so he told them to look - not at his face, not into his eyes, but at his hands and feet...

When that world looks around for the risen Christ, when they want to know what that means, it is us they look at. Not our pretty faces and not our sincere eyes but our hands and feet - what we have done with them and where we have gone with them.



# Announcements:

**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.

**PLEASE DONATE ELECTRONICALLY** – Since 1816 Brecksville United Church of Christ has been a beacon of hope. The building has changed, the people have changed, even our name has changed.

But one thing remains constant: the generous support of many individuals who are excited to keep growing and strengthening the church.

Now it's our turn. Please support the ministry of Brecksville United Church of Christ.

The way we give has also changed through the centuries. Now, most of us pay bills electronically. If you would like to make a donation with your phone, please scan this QR code.

Open the camera on your smartphone, just like you would if you were taking a picture. Point your phone at this image to open a website where you can make an electronic donation. **Thank you!**



**Baking Bread** – On Easter Sunday, our communion bread was baked by Kathy Fagan and Linda Gagnon. Thank you Kathy and Linda!

If you are interested in becoming one of our communion bread bakers, let us know. Baking bread for communion can be a tactile exercise in prayer; it can be a fun way to engage kids and grandchildren. But I'm not a very good baker; if my baking project flops, I'll just buy a whole loaf at the store. I only write that so that you don't feel too much pressure to be perfect. Moving forward, we'll *knead* communion bread every first and third Sunday. If you are interested, let us know by contacting Pastor John in person, or by text. And look for a signup sheet coming soon!

Today's sanctuary art is by Dana Kohlman, entitled "Until We Meet Again".

Attendance on Sunday, April 7, 2024 – Adults: 86; Kids: 5; Live Stream: 17; Total: 108

# Special Thanks

## APRIL 14, 2024

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

Thank  
You



## APRIL 21, 2024

**Head Usher:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Ushers:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Lay Reader:** Rose Kaval  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Flowers:** Janet Renovetz  
**Counters:** Marjorie Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Snack:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Set Up/Serve:** *Volunteers Needed*  
**Clean Up:** *Volunteers Needed*

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

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