



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*

"I am the Good Shepherd ..."

*"If we have no
peace, it is
because we
have forgotten
that we belong
to each other."*

*- Mother Teresa
of Calcutta,
20th century*



Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21st, 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!

April 21st, 2024

Good Shepherd Sunday

Prelude

Lamb of God

Paris

*"I was so lost, I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side
to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God."*

(Music and Words: Twila Paris, b. 1958; © 1985, Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music, ASCAP)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"The hunger to belong is not merely a desire to be attached to something.
It is rather sensing that great transformation and discovery become possible when
belonging is sheltered and true."
- John O'Donohue, 20th century*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:**

Leader: Come all you people, enter the gate of God's sheepfold.

ALL: We hear God calling us by name.

Leader: Jesus will bring all people to be one flock, with one shepherd.

ALL: From every nation, every people, tribe and language.

Leader: That they may be one, we proclaim:

ALL: God is still speaking!

Hymn of Praise

My Shepherd is the Living God

#247

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

Leader: O God, compassionate Good Shepherd, you have journeyed with us
even as our ancestors have traveled across the continents and oceans of this world.

**ALL: We pray for the land and the people, for healing and hope, and true
reconciliation. Help us to welcome everyone to your table, so that goodness
and mercy might follow us all the days of our lives.**

(Continued on next page)

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (continued)**

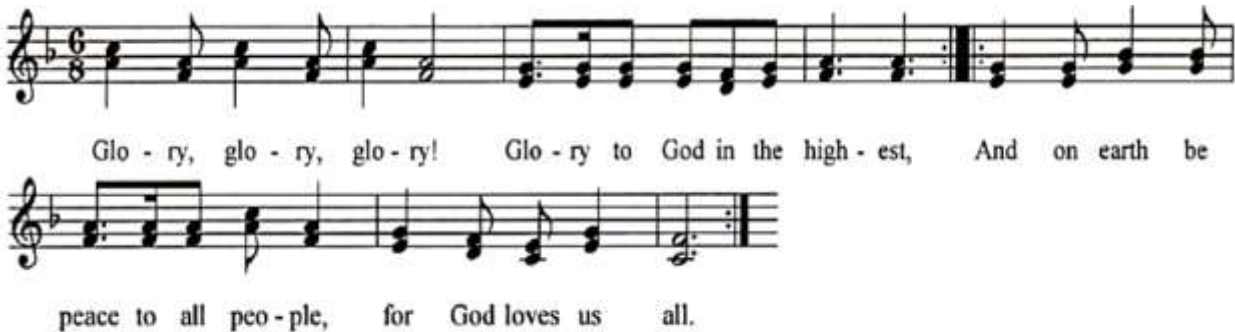
Leader: Life-sustaining God, we pray for all who suffer in body and spirit. Walk with them through each dark valley. Feed them with mercy; anoint them with healing. We offer all our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

*** Pastor's Prayer**

*** Song of Praise:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa 1988



Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - Psalm 23:1-6 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading - John 10:11-18

Continuing Testament - From CBS News



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

God Is My Shepherd

Townend

1. God is my shepherd, I'll not want. God makes me lie in pastures green.
God leads me by the still, still waters, God's goodness restores my soul.

Refrain: And I will trust in you alone. And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me, your goodness will lead me home.

2. You guide my ways in righteousness, and you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy, I feast on your pure delights. (Refrain)

3. And though I walk the darkest path, I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff are the comfort I need to know. (Refrain)

(Music: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; text based on Psalm 23; © 1996, Thankyou Music)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

#252

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]**

Loving Shepherd, you have laid down life itself, to show your love for all people. May our gifts of time, talent and treasure bring comfort to those who walk through dark valleys and bring wholeness and peace to those not of this fold. As we have gathered our gifts, gather us also as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



Communion

Communion Music

My Shepherd Is the Lord

Gelineau

Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]

Eternal God,
you have called your people
from east and west
and north and south
to feast at the table of Jesus Christ.

We thank you for Christ's presence
and for the spiritual food
of Christ's body and blood.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
keep us faithful to your will.

Go with us to the streets, to our homes,
and to our places of labor and leisure
that whether we are gathered or scattered,
we may be the servant church
of the servant Christ,
in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

#303

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.

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 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. Chords are indicated above and below the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

* Benediction

Postlude

A Shout Rings Out, a Joyful Voice

Attr. Malan

*"No grave could conquer David's Son; he conquered death and victory won,
rose from the grave in heavenly power, for he is God, our strength and tower."*

(Text: Eduard Gerdes, 1821-1898, tr. Psalter Hymnal, 1987; © 1987, CRC Publications)

Readings

First Reading

Psalm 23:1-6 (NRSV)

God is my shepherd, I shall not want. God makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters; God restores my soul leading me in right paths.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

Gospel Reading – *The Good Shepherd*

John 10:11-18

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf. That’s because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, in the same way Abba God knows me and I know God— and for these sheep I will lay down my life.

I have other sheep that don’t belong to this fold— I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice. And then there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why Abba God loves me— because I lay down my life, only to take it up again. No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from my Abba.”

Continuing Testament – From CBS News, November 6, 2023

Britain's so-called "loneliest sheep," which was stuck at the foot of a remote cliff in Scotland, has been rescued. Cammy Wilson, who led the rescue mission, said it was a risky one – and that's why, despite past attempts by others, the sheep had been stuck for so long. Wilson decided to name the sheep Fiona and continued to give updates about her on Facebook.

Readings

Continuing Testament *(continued)*

The sheep was first discovered in 2021, on the shore of the cliff in Brora by a kayaker. Photos show the sheep at the base of the 820-foot cliff, surrounded by steep rock on one side and water on the other.

In October of this year, Turner told the Northern Times she has spotted the sheep several times since – and the sheep hasn't been able to move off her spot on the base of the cliff. "It is heart-rending. We honestly thought she might make her way back up that first year," Turner said.

"The little sheep looks like she's stranded on a little rock," Wilson said in one of his update videos. Although Fiona was sequestered to one area, she still looked "fat and healthy," but had too much wool, he said.

He felt it was too dangerous for a dog to try and herd Fiona from the cliff. "You'll need a lot of people to catch it, and the more people you have, the more risk you have of someone getting hurt," Wilson said in the video. "You can't land a boat there easily. Loads of reasons why that sheep is still there."

On Saturday, Wilson had an exciting update for followers. He and four other men decided to attempt a rescue, using "heavy equipment," to bring Fiona up the slope of the cliff – and they were successful.

He and four others used a winch, a mechanical device that can act like a pulley, to get to Fiona. One person stayed at the top of the cliff, while the others traveled about 820 feet down the cliff to get to her, he said.

In another update on Facebook on Saturday, Wilson said the farmer that owned Fiona didn't want to ask "anyone else for help because it would be on him if they got hurt."

"So sometimes you just need a group of idiots to get a job done," he wrote in the caption. "We got a great result today, but a slip of a foot and we would have just been fools with good intentions."

Before sending her to her new home, Wilson cut Fiona's overgrown wool to an inch. She arrived at Dalscone Farm on Monday.

Announcements:

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Janet and Dan Renovetz, in honor of their grandson Neil's wedding on April 27th.

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.

HOLY GROUNDS – I will be at the Brecksville Panera for coffee at 8:15 most Tuesday mornings. Anyone is welcome to stop by. There's no need for an RSVP or agenda, so you never know who might show up. Of course, if you are looking for a more traditional meeting in my office, you can always set that up too. But if you're just looking for casual conversation, stop by at Panera any Tuesday for a visit and some "holy grounds." – Pastor John

PLEASE DONATE ELECTRONICALLY –

Please support the ministry of Brecksville United Church of Christ.

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!**



This week's sanctuary artwork comes from the catacomb of Priscilla, Rome, c. 3rd century C.E.

Attendance on Sunday, April 14, 2024 – Adults: 58; Kids: 6; Live Stream: 10; Total: 74

Special Thanks

APRIL 21, 2024

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

Thank
You



APRIL 28, 2024

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Kathy Pastor
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Flowers: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Kathy Pastor
A/V Team: David Pastor
Snack: Jenn Elting
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Jenn Elting
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

Notes: _____
