



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*

*"We worshipped
Jesus instead of
following him
on his same
path. We made
Jesus a mere
religion, instead
of a journey
toward union
with God and
everything
else."*

– Richard Rohr



Abide in my Love... and Bear Fruit

— John 15:9-17

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5th, 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!

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5th, 2024

Prelude

We Are Companions on the Journey

Landry

*"No longer strangers to each other; no longer strangers in God's house;
we are fed and we are nourished by the strength of those who care."*

(Words and Music: Carey Landry, b. 1944; © 1985 Carey Landry, published by OCP)

Welcome & Announcements

Meditation Music

Here at Thy Table

Sherwin

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

*"Here at thy table, Lord, this sacred hour, O let us feel thee near in loving power,
calling our thoughts away from self and sin as to thy banquet hall we enter in."*

(Words: May P. Hoyt, 1849-1923)

"This is my commandment: love one another." – Jesus

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Reader: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

All: Let our joy be complete!

Reader: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

All: Let us love one another!

Reader: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family – ALL will join in the new song:

All: No longer servants but friends!

Reader: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

All: We gather, rejoicing in the friendship of God.

Hymn of Praise

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#43

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

O beloved God, all the ends of the earth marvel at your deeds of power; we feel your presence as growth returns to the countryside; we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love revealed in the risen Christ. Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love, fill us with generosity and courage, so that we may be called your friends, and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus' name.

*** 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.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Glory to God' by Pablo Sosa. It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be' and the second staff contains 'peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.'

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - 1 John 4:18-21 (NRSVUE)

Gospel Reading - John 15:9-17 (The Inclusive Bible)

Continuing Testament - By Jenn Lasky



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

The Greatest of These

Schmidt

*Though I speak with human tongues and angels'
and have not love, and have not love,
Though I'm blessed with the special gift of prophecy
and have not love, and have not love,
Though my faith is strong enough to move a mountain,
Though I bestow my worldly goods to feed the poor,
Though my body may be tortured, if I have not lived with love,
I am nothing but a sounding brass, a tinkling cymbal, nothing, nothing.
But with love, I can bear it all rejoicing, because of love, because of love,
For love suffers everything, love beareth everything,
Love hopeth everything, love believeth everything.
There abideth three things - faith, hope, and love,
But the greatest of these is love.*

(Words: Based on 1 Cor 13)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

#393

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of David Ritchey, of Ann Kelly and of Joanne Fable, Leroy Ford, Phyllis Hassler, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Russ King, Jon Thompson, Gayle & Allison 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]**

Beloved Jesus, you have called us your friends. You open a way of unexpected justice, mutuality and joy among us. Take these gifts and bless them and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends.

Communion

Communion Music

Ubi Caritas

Durufié

*"Where there is charity and love, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us as one. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us honor and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another."
(Text: Based on 1 John 4:16)*

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 *God Our Author and Creator*

#530

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 music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A (above G), E (above A), A (above B), D (above C), Bm (above B), E (above A). The second staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). Chords below the staff are: A (below G), C#7 (below A), F#m (below B), Bm (below C), E7sus4 E7 (below B), A (below A).

* Benediction

Postlude

The Spring Has Come

Gibson

For behold,
the *Winter* is past
the rain is
over & gone
The flowers
appear on
the **EARTH**
The time of
Singing
has come,
and the
Voice of the
Turtledove
is heard in our land.

Two stylized flowers with intricate, circular patterns in their heads and long, thin stems. One flower is positioned above the other, both to the right of the main text.

SONG OF SOLOMON
2:11-12

Readings

First Reading

1 John 4:18-21 (NRSVUE)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17 (The Inclusive Bible)

The night before Jesus died, he told his disciples, "As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love. And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments.

I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God. It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you.

This command I give you: that you love one another.

Continuing Testament – By Jenn Lasky, Executive Director of The Edna House for Women, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Announcements:

At the beginning of the Sunday service, you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep this brief by avoiding details - share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Maureen Stanley & Terry Heiman, "In memory of our mothers, Beverly Heiman & Edna Stanley."

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 – 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!**



Announcements: *(continued)*

HOLY GROUNDS – Pastor John is 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 his 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."

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 Worshippers" 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.

This week's sanctuary artwork is "The Entrance" by Logan Hicks 2019.

Attendance on Sunday, April 28, 2024 – Adults: 60; Kids: 4; Live Stream: 19; Total: 83

Special Thanks

MAY 5, 2024

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Evie Novak
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Counters: Marge Culver
Lori Molesky
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Snack: Armand Eusanio
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Carol Miller
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**

Thank
You



MAY 12, 2024

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Robert Petrus
Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**
Flowers: Katie MacKeigan King
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Volunteer Needed
A/V Team: **Volunteer Needed**
Snack: **Volunteers Needed**
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**

Notes: _____
