



# 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*

"When your  
mother asks,  
'Do you want  
a piece of  
advice?'  
it's a mere  
formality.  
It doesn't matter  
if you answer  
yes or no.  
You're going to  
get it anyway."

- Erma Bombeck,  
20th century



**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 9<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)**

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Prelude**

**Weave**

Crow

*Assisted by Percussion Group*

*"Weave, weave, weave us together, weave us together in unity and love."*

(Words and Music: Rosemary Crow, copyright © 1979 Rosemary Crow)

## Welcome & Announcements

## Quiet Meditation Music

*"You must remember, family is often born of blood, but it doesn't depend on blood. Nor is it exclusive of friendship. Family members can be your best friends, you know. And best friends, whether or not they are related to you, can be your family."*

*- Trenton Lee Stewart, 21st century*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO PRAYER:** *(Based on Psalm 138)*

Leader: Come, let us worship our God with joy and thanksgiving: Everything in us says

**People: We are grateful to you, Creator God.**

Leader: At worship in this sacred place we say it again:

**People: We are grateful to you, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: For your love, for your faithfulness;

**People: We are grateful to you, God of Love.**

Leader: When earth's rulers hear what you have to say, O God, they'll sing of what you've done:

**People: How great the glory of God!**

Leader: Finish what you started in us, God. Your love is eternal—stay with us, now, that we may say

**People: We give thanks, now and forevermore!**

**Hymn of Praise**

***Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls***

#383

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

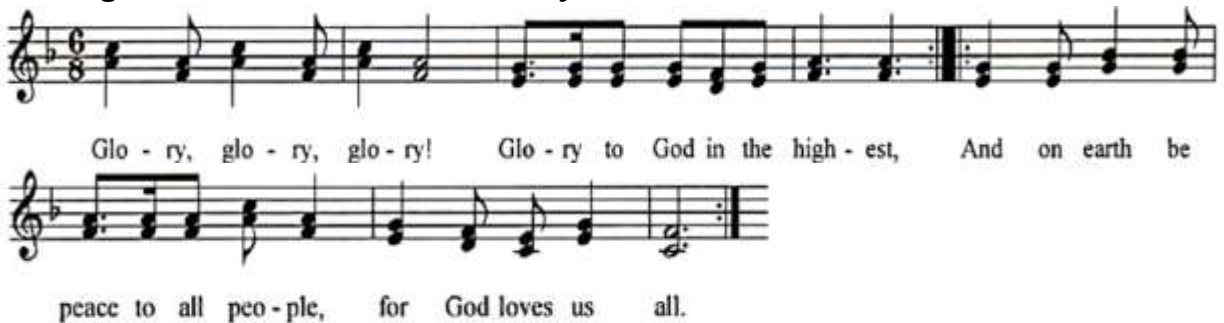
God of Creation, God of our ancestors, in your Son Jesus, we see your revelation. For your message does not come to us written only paper and ink. Rather, your Word became flesh and lived among us! For us, O God, your most perfect revelation is found in the person of Jesus. In his actions, we see your healing, your forgiveness and your love. By your Spirit, empower us to build the Realm of God, as envisioned by your son, Jesus.

**\* Pastor's Prayer**

**\* Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988



***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - 1 Samuel 8:4 – 20, 11:14–15**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 3:19-35 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By Raj Nadellau**





## Musical Offering

## ***Rainbow Connection***

Williams/Ascher

Erin Tomlinson, flute

*In celebration of Pride Month 2024.*

1. Why are there so many songs about rainbows,  
and what's on the other side?  
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions,  
and rainbows have nothing to hide.  
So we've been told, and some choose to believe it.  
I know they're wrong; wait and see.  
Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection;  
the lovers, the dreamers, and me.
2. Who said that every wish would be heard and answered  
when wished on the morning star?  
Somebody thought of that, and someone believed it;  
look what it's done so far.  
What's so amazing that keeps us star-gazing,  
and what do we think we might see?  
Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection;  
the lovers, the dreamers, and me.  
All of us under its spell; we know that it's probably magic.
3. Have you been half asleep and have you heard voices?  
I've heard them calling my name.  
Is this the sweet sound that calls the young sailors?  
The voice might be one and the same.  
I've heard it too many times to ignore it.  
It's something that I'm supposed to be.  
Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection;  
the lovers, the dreamers, and me.

La da da dee da da do, la la da da da de da do.

(Words & Music: Paul Williams & Kenneth L. Ascher; © 1979 Fuzzy Muppet Songs)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

***Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers***

**#397**

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

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]**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\* DEDICATION PRAYER: [UNISON]**

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls.

Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure**    *In Christ There Is No East or West*

#394

**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.

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

***We Are Family***

**Edwards/Rodgers**

## Readings

### First Reading

#### 1 Samuel 8:4 – 20, 11:14–15 (NRSV)

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.”

Samuel prayed to the Eternal, and the Eternal said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

So Samuel reported all the words of the Eternal to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; [and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.] He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Eternal will not answer you in that day.”

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”]

Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Eternal in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the Eternal, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.



## Readings

### **Gospel Reading** **Mark 3:19-35 (NRSV)**

[After Jesus called his disciples] he went home; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."

And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

## Readings

### **Continuing Testament – By Raj Nadellau**

As a South Indian and American, I've watched with great trepidation as "strongmen" with dictatorial attitudes were elected to the highest offices in both countries. Under the guise of fighting for "the people," these strongmen simply enhanced their own personal interests. Mark 3 reminds us that Jesus must first "bind the strongman" (or the violent one) before stolen goods can be released. This phenomenon is as ancient as it is contemporary and pairs wisely with the story in 1 Samuel 8. Here, the ordinary people of Israel see unjust and corrupt judges and demand a king to govern them "like all the nations" (verse 5). God tells Samuel to remind the people how kings work: A king will conscript their sons into war, their daughters into his service economy, their lands into his private holdings, and tax them to enrich himself.

The people ignore Samuel's warning and insist on a strongman to govern them. They love the idea of becoming a great nation more than they love their own peoples' welfare. They are enamored with the illusions sold by a strongman more than their own freedom, dignity, and families. They are willing to sacrifice their livelihoods and even their children in exchange for a king who makes them feel invulnerable. Paradoxically, the people sought to feel powerful by ceding their own actual, God-given power to a king and kingly systems of domination. Samuel's warning is for us today: Strongmen and kings are dangerous, and we must neither acquiesce to them nor remain indifferent.

# Announcements:

**COMMUNION BREAD** – If you're interested in baking/providing bread for one of our communion Sundays, please put your name on the sign-up sheet located in the narthex. The bread needs to be at the church no later than 9:15 on Sunday morning. Call Pastor John if you have any questions.

**PAPER RECYCLING BIN** – Unfortunately, Integrity Fiber is reducing the footprint of their routes, which includes the removal of the recycling bin in our parking lot. We're not sure when they'll remove our bin, but if anyone is looking for a nearby alternative, there are bins at the Brecksville United Methodist Church that will continue to be available.

**TO DONATE ELECTRONICALLY** – If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ 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!**



Attendance on Sunday, June 2, 2024 – Adults: 71; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 7; Total: 86

# Special Thanks

## JUNE 9, 2024

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Carol Miller Lori Molesky
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King
Counters:	Marge Culver <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Snack:	Katie MacKeigan King <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	Katie MacKeigan King <b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>

Thank  
You



## JUNE 16, 2024

Early Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Late Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Robert Petrus
Flowers:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Counters:	Marjorie Culver <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
A/V Team:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Snack:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>