



# 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 all require  
and want  
respect, man or  
woman, Black  
or white. It's our  
basic human  
right."

— Aretha Franklin



**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 16<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!**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Prelude**

***You Are the Seed***

Gabaráin

With Percussion Group

*"You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine through the day...  
You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain..."*  
(Words and Music: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; Copyright © 1979 Oregon Catholic Press)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Quiet Meditation Music**

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*"You must never, ever give out. We must keep the faith because we are one people.  
We are brothers and sisters. We all live in the same house:  
The American house." — John Lewis*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO PRAYER:** *(Based on Psalm 92:1-4)*

One: Come and give thanks to our God. Sing praises to the holy name.

**Many:** *With the melody of the lute and the harp and the song in our hearts,  
we declare God's steadfast love in the morning and faithfulness at night.*

One: God's works make us glad.

**Many:** Your works are great, O God. We sing our praises of joy to you.

**Hymn of Praise**

***I Sing the Mighty Power of God***

#12

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

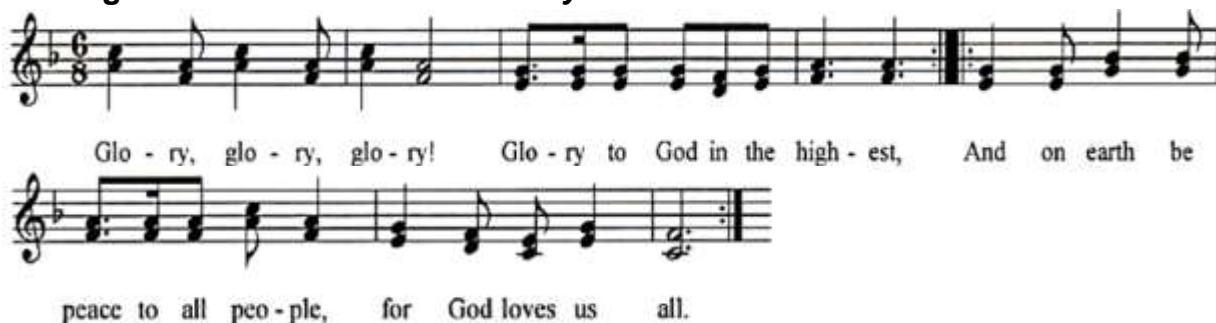
O God, maker of all that is beautiful, Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace. In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us to cultivate those seeds through our lives, so that all may share in Creation's abundance, to make true the promise that no one will know scarcity and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen.

**\* Pastor's Prayer**

**\* Song of Praise:**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa 1988



**Readings**

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 4:26-34 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By Emily Dickinson**



**Time with Young Worshipers**



**Musical Offering**

**Nobody Loves Me Like You**

Ed Cash/Scott Cash

Chris Hatala, tenor

*1. Morning, I see You in the sunrise every morning.*

*It's like a picture that You've painted for me, a love letter in the sky.*

*Story, I could've had a really different story.*

*But You came down from heaven to restore me, forever saved my life.*

*Chorus: Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus.*

*I stand in awe of Your amazing ways.*

*I worship You as long as I am breathing.*

*God, You are faithful and true. Nobody loves me like You.*

*2. Mountains, You're breaking down the weight of all my mountains.*

*Even when it feels like I'm surrounded, You never leave my side, oh! (Chorus)*

*Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing!*

*Oh, what a song my heart keeps singing!*

*Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing!*

*Jesus, You love me and I love You, God. (Chorus)*

(Words and Music: Ed Cash and Scott Cash; Copyright © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon BMI Alletrop Music)

## **Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**      ***We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed***      #540  
*Sung to the hymn tune BROTHER JAMES' AIR by James L. M. Bain (c. 1840-1925)*

### ***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]**

You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God. We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving. Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds of hope and healing in this community and beyond. Amen.

***Communion***



**Communion Hymn**

***Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup***

**#788**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Going with God's Love

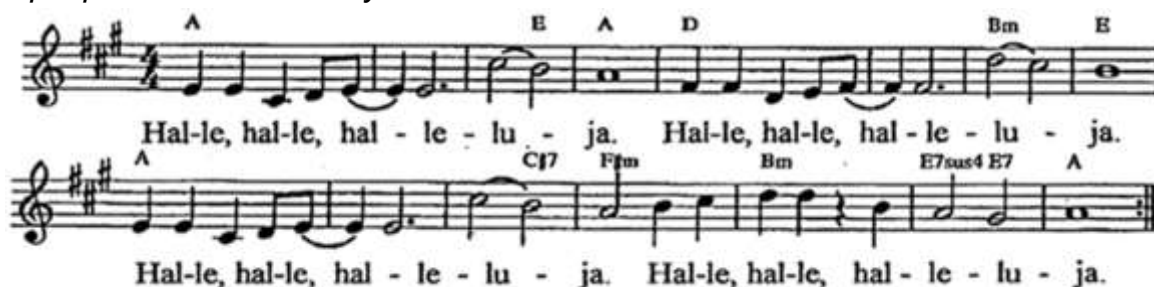
\* Hymn of Departure      *Come to Tend God's Garden*

#586

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.



### \* Benediction

Postlude

*Sing Alleluia Forth*

Buck



## Readings

### First Reading

#### 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Eternal was sorry that Saul had been king over Israel.

The Eternal said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.”

And the Eternal said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Eternal.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Eternal commanded, and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Eternal; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Eternal’s anointed is now before the Eternal.”

But the Eternal said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Eternal does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Eternal looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Eternal chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Eternal chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Eternal has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?”

And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.”

And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The Eternal said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Eternal came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.



## Readings

### Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-34 (NRSV)

Jesus also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

### Continuing Testament — by Emily Dickinson

#### When I Count the Seeds

When I count the seeds  
That are sown beneath,  
To bloom so, bye and bye—

When I con the people  
Lain so low,  
To be received as high—

When I believe the garden  
Mortal shall not see—  
Pick by faith its blossom  
And avoid its Bee,  
I can spare this summer, unreluctantly.

At the beginning of the Sunday service, you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these 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.

# *Announcements:*

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are dedicated by Jane and Cliff Cribbs, "In celebration of our 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary."

**A NOTE FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY** - Are you interested in helping the youth and adults of BUCC? Please consider becoming the chairperson of the Christian Education Ministry. No experience necessary, other than wanting to help out. Miss Mindy does a wonderful job with the kids. What we need is someone to help coordinate activities for adults and report to council. Please talk to Bridget Sproul or Pastor John if interested.

**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.

**HOLY GROUNDS** – Pastor John 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 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."

# Announcements: *(continued)*

**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 Worshipers” 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.

**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!**



# Special Thanks

## JUNE 16, 2024

Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Late Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Robert Petrus
Flowers:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	Carol Miller <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>

Thank  
You



## JUNE 23, 2024

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Flowers:	Janet Renovetz
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Lori Molesky
A/V Team:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Snack:	Kate Matthews <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>