



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*

"Hold those things
that tell your
history and protect
them. During
slavery, who was
able to read or
write or keep
anything? The
ability to have
somebody to tell
your story to is so
important. It says:
'I was here. I may
be sold tomorrow.
But you know I
was here.'"

- Maya Angelou



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 23rd, 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!

Celebration of Juneteenth

June 23rd, 2024

Prelude *Oh, Freedom* African American spiritual
Welcome & Announcements
Quiet Meditation Music *The Lord Is My Light* Bouknight
Angela Lynard, vocalist

1. *The Lord is my light and my salvation, (3 times). Whom shall I fear?*
Refrain: Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life. Whom shall I fear?
2. *In the time of trouble He shall hide me, (3 times). Whom shall I fear? (Refrain)*
3. *Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, (3 times). Whom shall I fear? (Refrain)*
(Text and Music: Lillian Bouknight, © 1980, Savgos Music, Inc.)

“Even though the story has never been tidy, and Black folks have had to march and fight for every inch of our freedom, our story is nonetheless one of progress.”
- Michelle Obama

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: Celebration rises, up from the deep places, finding voice in the light and air no longer denied.

All: Lift every voice and sing, sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

One: Celebration rises, not blind to the suffering, not blind to the sorrow.
Celebration comes at a cost.

All: Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

One: Celebration rises, remembering the way we have come, the paths taken that have brought us here now to this place and time of celebration. Celebration rises, up and up, full of remembering.

All: Yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed.

(Continued on next page)

*** CALL TO PRAYER: (*continued*)**

One: Remembering the ones led to freedom by Harriet; remembering lives and freedom stolen,

All: We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

One: Celebration rises, resisting illusions, to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks our chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy.

All: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears thou who hast brought us thus far on our way; thou who has by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Hymn of Praise

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

#293

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

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

*** 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 - Isaiah 25:6-10 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading - Luke 4:16-20 (The Voice Translation)

Continuing Testament - By Langston Hughes



Time with Young Worshipers

We celebrate
freedom for ALL!

Musical Offering

Glorious Is Your Name

Fryson

Glorious is your name, O Jesus, praises to your name.

Oh, glorious and righteous and holy is your name.

Oh, glorious is your name.

I feel your presence in this place, your Spirit makes me whole;

I can feel your warm embrace and all the joy within my soul.

Oh, glorious is your name, Oh, glorious is your name.

(Music and Words: Robert J. Fryson, 1982; Copyright © 1982 Bob Jay Publishers)

Sermon

Jesus the Liberator

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Till We Reach That Day

Flaherty

(from the musical *Ragtime*, released 1996-1998; music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, book by Terrence McNally)

*1. There's a day of hope, may I live to see,
When our hearts are happy and our souls are free.
Let the new day dawn, Oh Lord, I pray --
We'll never get to heaven till we reach that day.*

*2. It's a day of peace, a day of pride,
A day of justice we have been denied,
When a man can live and a child can play --
We'll never get to heaven till we reach that day.*

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free;
While God is marching on.*

CONGREGATION SINGS: Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!

Glory, glory, hallelujah! God's truth is marching on. (twice)

(From the song "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory", a 19th century United States camp-meeting tune)

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**

Offertory Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

#524

*** 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]**

Gracious God, we ask you to accept these gifts, bless them, and use them to calm storms and create in our communities new, imaginative, and life-giving streams. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

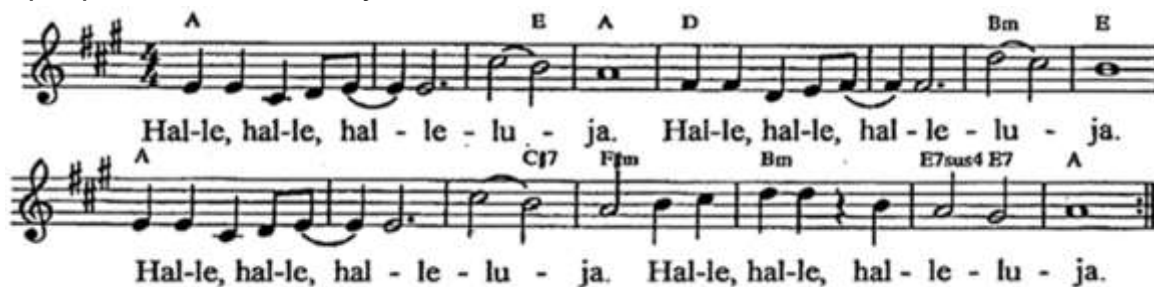
I've Got a Feeling

#458

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.

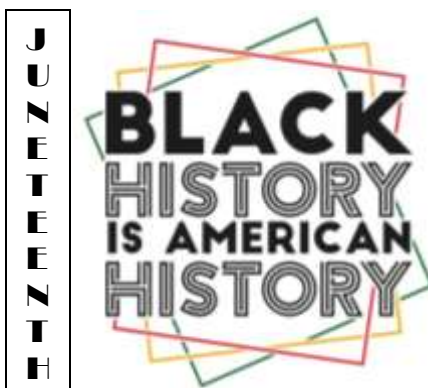


* Benediction

Postlude

Never Turning Back

Humphries



Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-10 (NRSV)

On this mountain the God of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; and will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people God will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation."

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:16-20 (The Voice Translation)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit, and soon people across the region had heard news of him. He would regularly go into their synagogues and teach. His teaching earned him the respect and admiration of everyone who heard Him. He eventually came to his hometown, Nazareth, and entered the synagogue and stood up to read from the Hebrew Scriptures.

The synagogue attendant gave him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and Jesus unrolled it to these words: "The Spirit of the Eternal One is on me. Why? Because the Eternal designated me to preach good news to the poor, to tell those who are held captive that they can now be set free, to tell the blind that they can now see, to liberate those held down by oppression, and to proclaim that now is the time; this is the jubilee season of the Eternal One's grace."

Jesus rolled up the scroll and returned it to the synagogue attendant. Then He sat down, *as a teacher would do*, and all in the synagogue focused their attention on Jesus, *waiting for Him to speak*. He told them that these words from the Hebrew Scriptures were being fulfilled then and there, in their hearing.

Readings

Continuing Testament – *The Negro Mother*, by Langston Hughes (1931)

Children, I come back today
To tell you a story of the long dark way
That I had to climb, that I had to know
In order that the race might live and grow.
Look at my face — dark as the night —
Yet shining like the sun with love's true light
I am the child they stole from the sand
three hundred years ago in Africa's land.
I am the dark girl who crossed the wide sea
Carrying in my body the seed of the free.
I am the woman who worked in the field
Bringing the cotton and the corn to yield.
I am the one who labored as a slave,
Beaten and mistreated for the work I gave —
Children sold away from me, husband sold, too.
No safety, no love, no respect was I due.

Three hundred years in the deepest South:
But God put a song and a prayer in my mouth.
God put a dream like steel in my soul.
Now, through my children, I'm reaching the goal.

Now, through my children, young and free,
I realize the blessings deed to me.
I couldn't read then. I couldn't write.
I had nothing, back there in the night.
Sometimes, the valley was filled with tears,
But I kept trudging on through the lonely years.

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament *(continued)*

Sometimes, the road was hot with the sun,
But I had to keep on till my work was done:
I had to keep on! No stopping for me —
I was the seed of the coming Free.
I nourished the dream that nothing could smother
Deep in my breast — the Negro mother.

I had only hope then, but now through you,
Dark ones of today, my dreams must come true:
All you dark children in the world out there,
Remember my sweat, my pain, my despair.
Remember my years, heavy with sorrow —
And make of those years a torch for tomorrow.
Make of my pass a road to the light
Out of the darkness, the ignorance, the night.
Lift high my banner out of the dust.
Stand like free men supporting my trust.
Believe in the right, let none push you back.
Remember the whip and the slaver's track.
Remember how the strong in struggle and strife
Still bar you the way, and deny you life —
But march ever forward, breaking down bars.
Look ever upward at the sun and the stars.
Oh, my dark children, may my dreams and my prayers
Impel you forever up the great stairs —
For I will be with you till no white brother
Dares keep down the children of the Negro Mother.

Announcements:

A HUGE THANK YOU to Angela Lynard, our hymn leader and gospel soloist this morning – we greatly appreciate you sharing your awesome musical gifts with us, in celebration of Juneteenth 2024!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are from Janet Renovetz, with the following dedication: "We ask God to protect the sick and hospitalized who are suffering and need healing, and ask God to help those who are caring for them."

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY will be collecting items for an initiative with Brecksville Broadview Heights School District called the Colony Cupboard. The goal of the program is to provide students in need with basic necessities, such as school supplies, toiletries, and food supplies. A collection area will be set up in the narthex, along with copies of their wish list. Please provide donations for the initial stocking of the cupboard before 8/4/2024.

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! Miss Mindy does a wonderful job with the kids, so 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.

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. **Thank you!**



Attendance on Sunday, June 16, 2024 – Adults: 57; Kids: 9; Live Stream: 7; Total: 73

Special Thanks

JUNE 23, 2024

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

Thank
You



JUNE 30, 2024

Early Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Late Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Rose Kaval
Flowers:	Maggie McNamara
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Jim Duffy
Snack:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>