



# 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*

*"Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary."*

-- Rachel Held Evans,  
*Searching for Sunday:  
Loving, Leaving, and  
Finding the Church,*  
21st century

**"COME AWAY by  
YOURSELVES  
TO A DESERTED  
PLACE,  
AND REST FOR  
A WHILE."  
- MARK 6:31**



**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 21<sup>st</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!**

# Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude  
Welcome & Announcements  
Quiet Meditation

*Prelude*

Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

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*"Your true home is in the here and the now."*  
-- Thich Nhat Hanh, 21st century

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO PRAYER:** *(Psalm 23, adapted)*

One: As God is our shepherd we need nothing else.

**Many: We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters,  
which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

One: God guides us along paths of righteousness

**Many: And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid.  
The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

One: God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies.

There, we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

**Many: Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us  
as long as we dwell in the house of God.**

Hymn of Praise

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

#505

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

Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of prayer and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.

**\* Pastor's Prayer**

**\* Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

Glory, glory, glory – glory to God in the highest! (twice)  
And on earth be peace to all people, for God loves us all. (twice)

***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-14a**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By Mary Oliver**



***Time with Young Worshipers***



**Musical Offering**

***We Are the World***

Jackson/Richie

Diane Gressley, vocalist

*1. There comes a time when we heed a certain call,  
when the world must come together as one.  
There are people dying and it's time to lend a hand to life,  
the greatest gift of all.*

*We can't go on, pretending day by day  
that someone, somewhere will soon make a change.  
We are all a part of God's great big family,  
and the truth, you know love is all we need.*

***Refrain:*** *We are the world, we are the children,  
we are the ones to make a brighter day, so let's start giving.  
There's a choice we're making, we're saving our own lives,  
it's true we make a better day, just you and me.*

*2. Well, send them your heart so they know that someone cares  
and their lives will be stronger and free.  
As God has shown us by multiplying bread,  
so we all must lend a helping hand. (Refrain)*

*When you're down and out, there seems no hope at all.  
But if you just believe, there's no way we can fall.  
Well, let us realize that a change will only come  
when we stand together as one, as one! (Refrain)*

(Words and Music by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie; copyright © 1985 Mijac Music & Brockman Music)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**                      ***I Heard the Voice of Jesus***

#489

(sung to the hymn tune KINGSFOLD, pair verses 1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

### ***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.**

**\* BLESSING OVER THE GIFTS: [UNISON]**

Thank you, God, for the ministries of the people of your church. Thank you, God, for the bounty of your blessings you have poured out upon us. We have taken a portion of our abundance and given it to you in grateful thanksgiving. Consecrate this offering. May it help to support the ministries of this church that will dismantle the walls that divide us so all people will be one in the new family gathered in Christ Jesus. Amen.



**Communion Music**

***For Bread before Us Broken***

Ewing

*"For bread before us broken, for wine before us poured,  
for words which you have spoken, we give you thanks, O Lord.  
In prayer that we'll be strengthened and be again restored,  
in faith that you will aid us, we seek your table, Lord."*

(Music: Alexander Ewing, 1830-1895; words: Roy A. Cheville, 1897-1986, alt.)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]**

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. Amen.

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure      *Go My Children, with My Blessing*

#82

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 simple and hymn-like. The first staff has lyrics: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." with chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E above it. The second staff has lyrics: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." with chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A above it.

### \* Benediction

Postlude

*Toccata*

Berlioz (1803-1869)

## Readings

### First Reading

#### 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Now when King David was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.



## Readings

### Gospel Reading

#### Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (NRSV)

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

### Continuing Testament – By Mary Oliver

#### "I Worried"

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers  
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn  
as it was taught, and if not how shall  
I correct it?  
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,  
can I do better?  
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows  
can do it and I am, well,  
hopeless.  
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,  
am I going to get rheumatism,  
lockjaw, dementia?  
Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.  
And gave it up. And took my old body  
and went out into the morning,  
and sang.

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:

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ROB GROW:

*I will be ordained to ministry in the United Church of Christ on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This marks a very important milestone in my life, as I begin serving the congregation of Grace UCC Loyal Oak in Norton.*

*And this is a bittersweet moment for me. I am very happy to begin this new chapter, and at the same time, it also means my departure from Brecksville United Church of Christ, and a farewell to this community which has been an essential part of my life for many years. You, my friends, have walked with me, supported me and nourished my spirit with your love, your prayers and your friendship.*

*So, I invite you to celebrate this time with me. If you are able, please join me for the ordination ceremony, here at Brecksville United Church of Christ, on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. This will be followed by a reception in Pilgrim Hall - please come and celebrate!*

# Announcements: *(continued)*

**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.

**TEACHERS NEEDED** - We're seeking Sunday school teachers for the Fall! The children will range from 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and the more volunteers we have, the easier the schedule will be. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Miss Mindy or call the office at (440) 526-4364.

**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!**



# Special Thanks

## JULY 21, 2024

Early Usher:	Lori Molesky
Late Usher:	Carol Miller
Greeter:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Dave Bernard
Counters:	Marge 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>

Thank  
You



## JULY 28, 2024

Early Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Late Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Reader:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Flowers:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
A/V Team:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Snack:	Jenn Elting <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	Jenn Elting <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>