



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*

*"To deny
oneself is to be
aware only of
Christ and no
more of self,
to see only him
who goes
before and no
more the road
which is too
hard for us."*

*- Dietrich
Bonhoeffer,
The Cost of
Discipleship, 20th
century*



*"Who do
you say
I am?"*

~ Mark 8:29

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, September 15th, 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!

Sunday September 15th, 2024

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

Angry Words

Palmer; lyricist unknown

*"Angry words! O let them never from the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart's best impulse ever check them ere they soil the lip.
'Love one another,' thus saith the Savior;
children obey the Maker's blest command."*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"As a Christian I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will rise again in the people of El Salvador...If they carry out their threats, I offer my blood for the redemption and resurrection of El Salvador... May my death, if it is accepted by God, be for the liberation of my people, as a witness of hope in what is to come."
- Archbishop Oscar Romero, 1980

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:** *(from Mark 8: 27-30)*

Reader: Jesus asks the disciples: "Who do people say I am?"

People: They answer, "Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah; and others say one of the prophets."

Reader: But Jesus presses them: "Who do *you* say I am?"

People: Peter answers, "You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"

Reader: Now Jesus pushes *us*: "What about you? Here, in this moment, in this community, Who do you say I am?"

People: Jesus is our Way, our Truth, and our Life

Reader: Then let us join now in prayer and worship...

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

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh upon us; allow your presence to fill us with power from on high. Come, Holy One, and dwell among us. We need your guidance to love our neighbor. Give us the grace to stand and be witnesses in our homes, our schools, and on our jobs. Come into this place and make us one with each other. It is in your name we pray. Amen.

*** Pastor's Prayer***** Song of Praise:*****Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - James 3:1-12 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading - Mark 8:27-36 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament - By John Dear

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

Purest Blessing

Shaker hymn

1. *Shun the thorn and grow the flower, speak no sentiment unkind;
Let thy life, like balmy showers, give sweet fragrance to the mind.
For with days so swiftly passing, friends may go and come no more;
Let them bear thy purest blessing, giving but refills thy store.*
2. *Let thy deeds like sunlight falling where the shadows often stray,
And thy voice in loving accents cheer the weary o'er life's way!
We are all so prone to error, gifts of love and gospel care
Are the sweetest joys that mingle with our battle and our prayer.*
3. *Best, amid the pearls that glitter in the victor's diadem,
Is the one of purest water -- Love -- the brilliant, sparkling gem.
This the halo of our Savior, this the glory of His strife,
Let us weave its radiant brightness in the fabric of our life.*

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Where Charity and Love Prevail

#396

The Church at Prayer

Pastor John King and family, the family and friends of Dassie Matsuoka, Gayle & Allison Colbert, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, 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.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION: [UNISON]**

O God, we offer these gifts, tithes, and offerings for the building of your kingdom on earth. Bless the gift and the givers. Bless all who offer time, talent and treasure in your service. We offer this prayer in your holy name. Amen.



Communion

Communion Music

We Are People on a Journey
(congregation sings the Refrain)

#340

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

Be Now My Vision

#451

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

Toccata and Fugue in G Major

Scarlatti

Readings

First Reading

James 3:1-12 (NRSV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Creator, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh."

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-36 (NRSV)

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

Readings

Gospel Reading *(continued)*

And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Humanity must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"

Continuing Testament - *The Gospel of Peace*, by John Dear

"You are the Messiah," Peter responds. Every faithful Jew was expecting a messiah, but they were expecting a violent messiah who would overthrow Rome in a revolution and lead the chosen people to rule Jerusalem. Jesus knows that's what Peter and the gang are hoping for. He also knows that he has nothing to do with violence. He is a revolutionary, yes, but a nonviolent revolutionary who will lead a grassroots movement of nonviolent resistance...

He explains the way of nonviolence, and the consequences he will suffer for his nonviolent resistance to the empire. The Son of Humanity, he explains, "must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days."

Jesus knew the stories of the prophets, how Jeremiah, Daniel, Isaiah, and so many others were persecuted, even killed. He knew and loved John the Baptist. He could see that, if the authorities executed John, he didn't stand a chance. He would face the same outcome.

(Continued on next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament (*continued*)

He started to prepare himself for his arrest, torture, and execution. Part of that preparation was to begin preparing his disciples, too, to help them understand the inevitable outcome.

Jesus was not passive. That is something Mark makes blatantly clear. He was a man of action, someone who took risks, someone who stood up publicly, spoke out publicly, and sided publicly with the poor, the marginalized, the excluded, and the enemy. His was a bold, daring, creative nonviolence...

He was not a fortune-teller: this future was clear for anyone with eyes wide open. It was clear to him, as it was to Gandhi, who knew he would be assassinated, just as Dr. King knew his days were numbered, just as Archbishop Romero knew that in a land of death squads he would be killed sooner or later...

Peter will have none of it. He takes Jesus aside and begins to rebuke him. "Are you crazy?" he must have said. "You can't do that! You'll ruin everything. We can't let you get arrested, tortured, and killed! God forbid!" Jesus turns around, and "looking at his disciples," Mark tells us, rebukes Peter, saying, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does but as human beings do." This is one of the most shocking, surprising statements in the Gospels. Jesus calls Peter none other than Satan, the ruler of the world of violence and death. The charge is that Peter is not thinking as God does... In our shock, we need to ask, how do we think as God thinks? To think as God thinks means to think with a mind of proactive love and compassion, active nonviolence, solidarity with the oppressed, yet in an attitude of faith and infinite peace. Learning this mindset and heart-set, we become more empowered to act as Jesus acts.

Announcements:

LONGTIME MEMBER of BUCC, Dassie Matsuoka, passed away peacefully a few weeks ago – she sang soprano in our choir for many years, and was loved by all who had the privilege to know her. She will be forever remembered as a very humble, gentle and compassionate person. At the age of 19, Dassie and her family were placed in an internment camp for Japanese American citizens during WWII. Dassie wrote a booklet about her experiences, which is available in the church office.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

Sunday, 9-15	<i>Pillar</i> deadline
Tuesday, 9-17	8:15 am - “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” in Pilgrim Hall 7:00 pm - Communications & Outreach Ministry (Zoom)
Wednesday, 9-18	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation in the Parlor 6:00 pm – Braver Angels in Pilgrim Hall
Thursday, 9-19	7:00 pm – Choir Practice in the Sanctuary
Saturday, 9-21	4:00 pm – Community of St. Bridget in the Parlor

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, September 8, 2024 – Adults: 70; Kids: 9; Online: 6; Total: 85
Next week's scripture readings will be **James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (NRSV)** and **Mark 9:30-37 (NRSV)**.



we are thankful for you

September 15, 2024

Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Late Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Reader:	Rose Kaval
Communion Bread:	Karen King
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snacks:	Armand Eusano Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel Volunteer Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

September 22, 2024

Early Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Flowers:	Maggie McNamara
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Bryan Chaikin
Snack:	Lois Lorenzo Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel Volunteer Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

