



# 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***

"Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a relationship between equals. Only when we know our own darkness well can we be present with the darkness of others. Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity"

- Pema Chödrön



**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 13<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!**

**Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Prelude**

***Praise God for This Holy Ground***

Bell

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound. Hallelujah!"*

(Words and Music: John L. Bell, 2002; © 2002 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

***\*Invitation to Prayer: (Pastor)***

**People Sing:** ***Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*** – Song Sheet, verse 1

***\*Invitation to Prayer: (Pastor)***

**People Sing:** ***Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*** – Song Sheet, verse 2

***\* Invitation to Prayer: (Pastor)***

**People Sing:** ***Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*** – Song Sheet, verse 3

**Peace Across the Divide**

*Reader 1: Sometimes I can't make out my own thoughts, much less yours.*

*Reader 2: Making sense of this life and this time seems unreachable.*

*Reader 1: What if we never figure it out?*

*Reader 2: What if we become too estranged?*

*Reader 1: I cannot imagine your viewpoint.*

*Reader 2: I'm not sure I am willing to believe that any solution will work.*

***(Continued on next page)***

Leader: Wait.

**People: Breathe.**

Leader: Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

**People: Breathe again.**

Leader: We are not alone.

**People: Christ is with us.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

Hymn of Praise

*Renew Your Church*

#311

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

O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world. Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly divided fairly. There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime. May we remember that all we have comes from you and that you have entrusted to us all that we have. May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us. Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity. Amen.

**\* 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 11: 6-9, NRSVUE**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By Thich Nhat Hanh**

## **Time with Young Worshipers**

### **Anthem**

### ***I'd Rather Have Jesus***

Shea

*1. I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands,  
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.*

*Refrain: Than to be the ruler of a vast domain  
Or be held in sin's dread sway;  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.*

*2. I'd rather have Jesus than your applause,  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;  
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame,  
I'd rather be true to His holy name. (Refrain)*

*3. He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom,  
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;  
He's all that my hindering spirit needs,  
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead. (Refrain)*

(Tune: George B. Shea, 1909-2013; text: Rhea Miller, 1894-1966; copyrights renewed 1966 and 1950 respectively, Word Music, Inc.)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

***Lead Us From Death to Life***

#581

## ***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, 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]**

Generous God, we thank you for all that we have – for all of it comes from you. We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you. May our offerings sustain and support the work of this church to close the disparity between those who have much and those who have little in this community. Amen.

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure      *For the Healing of the Nations*

#576

### 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      *When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides*      Southern Harmony, 1854

*"The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image."*

*- Thomas Merton*

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Isaiah 11: 6-9, NRSVUE

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

### Gospel Reading

#### Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'"

He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."



## Readings

### **Gospel Reading** *(continued)*

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

### **Continuing Testament – By Thich Nhat Hanh**

One day, we received a letter telling us about a young girl on a small boat who was raped by a Thai pirate. She was only twelve, and she jumped into the ocean and drowned herself.

We feel angry at the pirate... You only have to take a gun and shoot the pirate. But we can't do that. In my meditation, I saw that if I had been born in the village of the pirate and raised in the same conditions as he was ... there is a great likelihood that I would become a pirate.

After a long meditation, I wrote this poem. In it, there are three people: the twelve-year-old girl, the pirate, and me. Can we look at each other and recognize ourselves in each other?

#### **"Please Call Me by My True Names"**

Do not say that I'll depart tomorrow - even today I am still arriving.

Look deeply: every second I am arriving to be a bud on a Spring branch, to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile wings, learning to sing in my new nest, to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower, to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.

## Readings

### Continuing Testament (*continued*)

I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry, to fear and to hope, the rhythm of my heart is the birth and death of all that are alive.

I am the mayfly metamorphosing on the surface of the river, and I am the bird which, when Spring comes, arrives in time to eat the mayfly.

I am the frog swimming happily in the clear water of a pond, and I am the grass-snake that silently feeds itself on the frog.

I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones, my legs as thin as bamboo sticks. And I am the arms merchant, selling deadly weapons to Uganda.

I am the twelve-year-old girl, refugee on a small boat, who throws herself into the ocean after being raped by a sea pirate. And I am the pirate, my heart not yet capable of seeing and loving.

I am a member of the politburo, with plenty of power in my hands. And I am the man who has to pay his "debt of blood" to my people, dying slowly in a forced labor camp.

My joy is like Spring, so warm it makes flowers bloom all over the Earth. My pain is like a river of tears, so vast it fills the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names, so I can hear all my cries and laughter at once, so I can see that my joy and pain are one.

Please call me by my true names, so I can wake up and so the door of my heart can be left open, the door of compassion.

Attendance on Sunday, October 6, 2024 – Adults: 56; Kids: 6; Online: 10; Total: 72

Next week's scripture readings will be **Ephesians 4: 1-6, (NRSVUE)** and **Mark 10:32-45 (NRSV)**.

# Announcements:

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** – To participate, select one of the pre-printed verses/dates and write a short (less than 300 words) reflection. The deadline is 10/31, either by email to: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com), or dropped off in the office.

**SEASONAL CHOIR** – It's not too late to join us in preparing for this year's Christmas cantata. Practice is on Thursday evenings from 7-7:45, and high school students are welcome! Contact Dave Debick with any questions.

**AUTUMN FREE CONCERT** – On Sunday October 27 at 4:00, we will be hosting a free concert, featuring the Caos String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. A free-will offering will be received, followed by a light reception in Pilgrim Hall.

**ALL SOULS SERVICE** – This year's service will take place on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The All Souls service is a loving and reverent remembrance of loved ones who passed away this year (between last November and today). Please submit the names of your departed loved ones and friends to the office email at: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) by October 30<sup>th</sup>. A dedicated **"We Remember Table"** will be available in Pilgrim Hall, if you wish to share a picture of your loved one. Please bring your photos downstairs before the service and you may include a short dedication with the picture if you'd like.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR** includes the following:

<b>Tue., 10-15</b>	8:15 am – "Holy Grounds" at Panera
<b>PILLAR</b>	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
<b>DEADLINE</b>	7:30 pm – Communication & Outreach Ministry (Zoom)
<b>Wed., 10-16</b>	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)
	6:00 pm – Braver Angels (Pilgrim Hall)
<b>Thu., 10-17</b>	7:00 pm – Seasonal Choir Practice
	8:00 pm – Regular Choir Practice

**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!**





we are thankful for you

### October 13, 2024

Early Usher:	Diane Gressley
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor
Snacks:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

### October 20, 2024

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Communion Bread:	Armand Eusanio
Flowers:	Carol Miller
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Snack:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

