



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*"Blessed are
those who
hunger and thirst
for
righteousness"*

*"Blessed are the
peacemakers"*

*"Blessed are the
poor in spirit"*



Reign of Christ Sunday, November 24th, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Pastor
• John King

Director of Music
• David Debick

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant
Miranda Lacefield

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:

Monday – Thursday 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 November 24th, 2024

Reign of Christ Sunday

Prelude

Lord Reign in Me

Brown

Assisted by Percussion Group

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

“Blessed are the merciful” “Blessed are those who mourn”

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

Call to Prayer:

One: *Know that the Holy One is God.*

Many: **We are God’s people.**

One: *Worship the Holy One with gladness;*

Many: **Come into God’s presence with singing.**

One: *Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise.*

Many: **Make a joyful noise!**

One: *For God is good;*

*God’s steadfast love endures forever,
and God’s faithfulness to all generations.*

Many: **Let us worship with thanks and joy!**

Let us praise God in song and word and prayer!

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

We long to live in the Kingdom of God

Gracious God, we want to follow Jesus and live as he has called us to live.

So open our eyes to recognize your presence,

That your kingdom may come on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Amen.

Song of Praise:

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

#304

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Revelation 1:4-8 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading: - Matthew 5:3-12 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament: Excerpts from The Last Week by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan



Time with Young Worshippers

Anthem

You Are the Christ, O Lord - Dirksen - Betsey Wilson, flute

You are the Christ, O Lord, the Son of God most high!

For ever be adored that Name in earth and sky,

in which, though mortal strength may fail,

the saints of God at last prevail!

(Music: Richard Wayne Dirksen, 1921-2003; words: William Walsham How, 1823-1897)

Sermon: "The Dream of God" by Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection

Eternal Christ, You Rule

#302

Dedication of Pledges

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, the family and friends of Dassie Matsuoka, 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.)

Prayers of the Church

Silent Meditation

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]**

**God of abundance,
we give these offerings
as an expression of our commitment to give back to you
and to care for your people.
Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us.
Use our offerings of money and of our lives
for ministry to your purposes. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure *Rejoice, the Lord is King* #303**

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.

*** Circle of Community (continued)**

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.

Postlude

At the Name of Jesus

Brierley



Readings

First Reading Revelation 1:4-8 (NRSV)

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before the throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the rulers of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving our God and Abba, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Eternal God, who is and who was and who is to come.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:3-12 (NRSV)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Continuing Testament – Excerpts from The Last Week by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan

For the major Jewish festivals [such as Passover], Pilate went to Jerusalem. Imagine the Pilate's imperial procession's arrival in the city. A visual panoply of imperial power: cavalry on horses, foot soldiers, leather armor, helmets, weapons, banners, golden eagles mounted on poles, sun glinting on metal and gold. ... Pilate's procession displayed not only imperial power, but also Roman imperial theology. According to this theology, the emperor was not simply the ruler of Rome, but the Son of God.

We return to the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem [on Palm Sunday]. Although it is familiar, it has surprises. As Mark tells the story in 11:1–11, it is a prearranged “counter procession.” Jesus planned it in advance... This looks like a planned political demonstration.

The meaning of the demonstration is clear, for it uses symbolism from the prophet Zechariah in the Jewish Bible. According to Zechariah, a king would be coming to Jerusalem “humble, and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (9:9)... The rest of the Zechariah passage details what kind of king he will be:

This king, riding on a donkey, will banish war from the land—no more chariots, war-horses, or bows. Commanding peace to the nations, he will be a king of peace.

Jesus's procession deliberately countered what was happening on the other side of the city. Pilate's procession embodied the power, glory, and violence of the empire that ruled the world. Jesus's procession embodied an alternative vision, the kingdom of God.

This contrast—between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Caesar—is central not only to the gospel of Mark, but to the story of Jesus and early Christianity. The confrontation between these two kingdoms continues through the last week of Jesus's life. As we all know, the week ends with Jesus's execution by the powers who ruled his world.

Announcements:

WELCOME MIRANDA LACEFIELD!

We are delighted to introduce our new BUCC Office Manager and Pastoral Administrative Assistant, **Miranda Lacefield**.



She is a longtime member of the UCC and is currently serving as Administrative Coordinator for the UCC Camp, *Templed Hills* in Bellville OH. Miranda will be working remotely until the end of this year, then she will be in the office for regular office hours. You can reach her by using the same email address (buccOffice23@gmail.com) or by calling the church office phone number. She's pictured here with her husband, Andy, daughter, Charlotte and son Emmett.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL – Did you sign up to write an Advent devotional? We need to print it THIS WEEK! Deadline is TOMORROW – November 25. Email submissions to Miranda at buccOffice23@gmail.com. Thank you!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Thanks to our volunteers who helped out yesterday. Volunteers are needed in Cleveland - if you would like to participate in future opportunities with Habitat for Humanity, contact Dan Maier at dmaier68@aol.com. More info to come!



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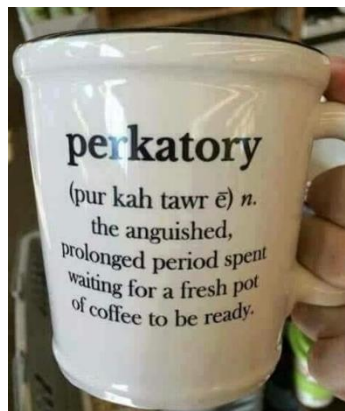
THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

Today, Sunday 24- *“Hanging of the Greens” after services.*

Tue., 11-26 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

Wed. 11-27 11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)
7:00 pm – Stewardship/Leadership Development

SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to Pastor John (buccpastor23@gmail.com)



You'll notice scriptures for upcoming weeks listed in the Sunday bulletin – ideas that connect to those particular scriptures are especially welcome. In October, our Music Director started a once-monthly brainstorming session scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! At BUCC, WE ARE ONE, and we look forward to your unique input into our shared journey.

DECK THE HALLS! - "Hanging of the Greens" refers to the practice of adding evergreen plants (live or artificial) to a congregation's worship space. The tradition had its origin in pagan pre-Christian culture, but like many other traditions, Christians adopted this practice and understand it to be a symbol of the Eternal, coming to dwell among us as Word made flesh. The Greens can also be seen as a sign of life and growth, overcoming and flourishing in the dead of winter. Please join us following worship TODAY Sunday, November 24th, when BUCC will ring in the holiday season with our own “Hanging of the Greens” celebration/pizza party.



we are thankful for you

November 24, 2024

Early Usher: Jill Zedan
Late Usher: Mark Lehman
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Reader: Jill Zedan
Flowers:
Counters: Marge Culver,
Janet Renovetz
A/V: Fred Pederson
Snacks: Lois Lorenzo
Erin Tominson
Betsy Wilson
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Rose Kaval

December 1st, 2024

Early Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Late Usher: Annette Pederson
Greeter: Lori Moleski
Reader: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Maggie McNamara
Counters: Lori Molesky
A/V: Fred Pederson
Snack: **Volunteers Needed**
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**
Clean Up: Rose Kaval

Our sanctuary art this week is
"Thanksgiving Harvest"
by Stephanie Pryor



Attendance last Sunday, November 17, 2024 – Adults:73; Kids:9; Online:20; Total: 102
Next week's scripture readings will be **James 5:7-11**, and **Luke 21:25-36**