



# Brecksville

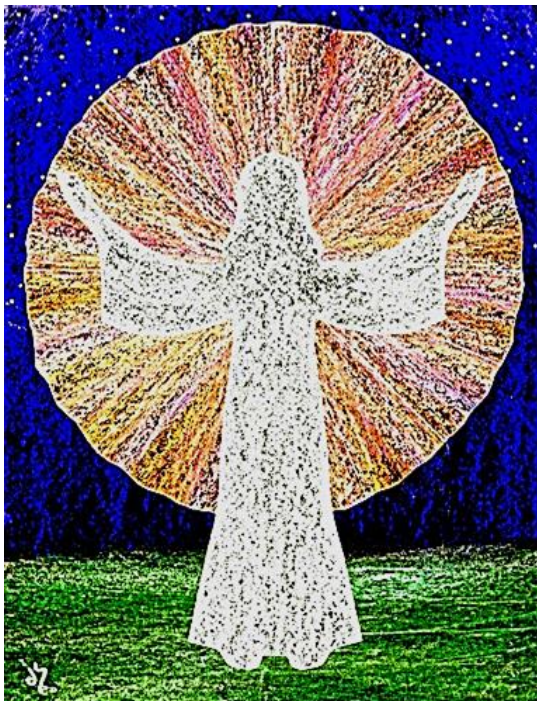
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# United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364  
*Transfiguration Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 • 10:00 AM*

*"I want to know  
how God created  
this world. I am not  
interested in this or  
that phenomenon,  
in the spectrum of  
this or that element.  
I want to know  
God's thoughts; the  
rest are details."*

*- Albert Einstein.*



**Pastor**  
• John King

**Director of Music**  
• David Debick  
Ministers – All of Our Members

**Financial Secretary**  
• Joy Garapic

**Administrative Assistant**  
Miranda Lacefield

## **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.

**\*\*LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILIABLE UPON REQUEST\*\***

**Office Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday 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!**

# Transfiguration Sunday

## Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Prelude                      **Just a Closer Walk with Thee**      American folk song

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



*"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."*

*– Albert Einstein*



**Gathering in God's Presence**

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO PRAYER:**

One:              Something drew us together this morning

**All:              Something we can't name but which we experience in  
                         worship**

One:              Some holy mystery we call God

**All:              Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus**

One:              Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit

**All:              May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and  
                         fears and prepare us to love the world.**

Hymn of Praise

**When the Saints Go Marching In**

African-American Spiritual

**1. O when the Saints go marching in, (twice)**

**Lord, I want to be in that number**

**When the Saints go marching in!**

**2. O when the sun begins to shine, (twice)**

**Lord, I want to be in that number**

**When the sun begins to shine.**

**3. O when the air is pure and clean...**

**4. O when our leaders work for peace...**

**5. O when we see the truth at last...**

**6. O when we join our hands as one...**

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

O God, you are beyond words and description,  
your love is beyond knowledge and explanation.

Make our hearts ready to receive you.

Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the glory of your  
transfiguration.

We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit. 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: - Exodus 34:29-35**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 9:28-36**

**Continuing Testament: by Carl Sagan**

Time with  
Young Worshipers

**Anthem**

**Soon and Very Soon Crouch**

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; (three times)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; (three times)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King; (three times)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; (three times)  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Soon and very soon.

(Words and Music: Andra   Crouch;   1976 & this arr.   1994 Bud John Songs, Inc. ASCAP)

**Sermon:** * Mountain Top Experiences * by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

**#506**

***The Church at Prayer***

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, The family of Cliff Stenzel,  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]**

**Bless these gifts, we pray.**

**May they represent just the beginning of our journey  
to show forth your glory to the world. Amen.**

## Communion

At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.

No exceptions. No Kidding.

Communion Music

Let Us Break Bread Together

#330

### Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

\* Hymn of Departure

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

#282

### 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.

The musical notation is for the hymn 'Hallelujah' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

#### \*Benediction

Postlude Medley: Down by the Riverside/When the Saints Go Marching  
African-American spirituals

## Readings

### **First Reading Exodus 34:29-35 (NRSV)**

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,

the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 9:28-36 (NRSV)**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.

They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said.

While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

### **Continuing Testament** by Carl Sagan

Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturing's, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and



to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

## **Announcements:**

**MARDI GRAS-** Plan on joining us for incredible New Orleans-style music and a festive potluck today. There will be a King Cake dessert: according to Spanish and French tradition, whoever finds the baby hidden in the cake is believed to have increased luck and prosperity in the new year. Best of luck to all!

**Soup Supper-** Our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper will be held March 5 beginning at 6:30 with the service beginning at 7. We are looking for two more soups, including a vegetarian option for approximately 50 guests. An 18 bean soup has already been committed. Attendees with the last names, beginning with the letter A-L can bring bread. M-Z will bring bread for Maundy Thursday. We will have juice, soda and the usual coffee and tea to accompany the meal. Please contact David Pastor at [ridave@hotmail.com](mailto:ridave@hotmail.com) or 440.552.4403 to commit to making soup or with 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. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!



**Come on Down!-** If you have always dreamed of being in a studio audience, this could be your moment! Our services are broadcast live every week. But our camera placement usually only shows the first three pews. If those pews are empty, it appears that the whole church is empty – not a good look. So, consider sitting in those first few pews toward the center aisle. "Let your light shine!" Matthew 5:16

**Sharing the Good News-**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 birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

**The Social Justice Ministry** is collecting the following items to distribute to people living in homeless camps in Northeast Ohio, and to cancer patients going through chemotherapy. We are working with the Little Annie's Hope Train organization. Over the next several weeks you will see a bin on the pew bench at the parking lot entrance door.

<https://www.facebook.com/LittleAnniesHopeTrain> has pictures and other information. If you have questions, contact Claudia Griesmer.

### **Blessing Bags Distributed in Homeless Camps**

Personal Sized Toiletries (what you get from hotel rooms)  
Travel size dental floss and toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Mini hand sanitizers  
Small combs  
Chapstick  
Kleenex packets  
Individually wrapped toilet paper  
Wrapped plastic silverware (what you get with carry-out food)  
NEW adult heavy socks  
Inexpensive manual can openers  
Canned items with pull tabs (but NO cream soups)

### **Chemotherapy Packages for Cancer Patients**

Puzzle books  
Kleenex  
Journals  
Spearmints  
Pens  
Saltine crackers  
Ginger tea

**Thank You-** Many thanks to our guest musicians this morning for sharing their awesome talents with us in celebration of Mardi Gras: Steve Ostrow, trumpet; Don Tursoso, clarinet; Fred Wheatt, trombone; Mark Mazak, tuba; and Steve Kraus, banjo. Make sure to show your appreciation at the potluck following today's service!

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	Membership Mardi Gras Pot Luck
Mon. Mar 3	7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
Tue. Mar 4	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Mar 5	11:00 am - Mindfulness & Meditation 5:00 pm – Spiritual Life 6:30 pm – Soup Supper 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service
Thur. Mar 6	5:30 pm – Youth Choir-Per Distributed Schedule 6:30 pm – Music Committee 7:00 pm - Choir Practice

**PRIVACY MATTERS-** Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind: Children who come up for the “Time with Young Worshippers” will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware

that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online.



We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But avoid disclosing personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either: ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers, OR avoid details or keep anonymity by the way you phrase your prayer.



### March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Late Usher:	Mark Lehman
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snacks:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snow Herder:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Communion Bread:	Sherrill Witt

### March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snack:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snow Herder:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>



Attendance last Sunday, February 23, 2024 – Adults: 50; Kids: 9; Online: 29; Total: 88  
Next week's scripture readings will be, **1 Kings 19:11-13** and **Luke 4:1-13**