



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

*"Lay down your  
guns  
All you daughters  
of Zion  
All you Abraham's  
sons"*

*U2 "Love and  
Peace or Else"*



*Photo: "First Crocuses of 2025" by Lori Moleski*

**Second Sunday in Lent, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 • 10:00 AM**

**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!**

# Second Sunday in Lent

## Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Prelude

### Knowing You Kendrick

Erin Tomlinson, flute; Armand Eusano, clarinet

"Now my heart's desire is to know You more, to be found by You, and known as Yours,  
to possess by faith what I could not earn; all-surpassing gift of righteousness."

(Music and Words: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; © 1993 Make Way Music)

### Welcome & Announcements

### Silent Meditation



*"Religion is at its best when it makes us ask hard questions of our selves. Religion is at its worst when it deludes us into thinking we have all the answers for everyone else."*

*-Archibald MacLeish*



### Gathering in God's Presence

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

### \*CALL TO PRAYER:

One: God desires to gather us as a mother hen gathers her chicks

**ALL: God gathers us together**

One: God's wings spread out before us

**ALL: God's presence, and protection are all around us**

One: To nurture is God's nature

**ALL: To mother is God's gift**

One: Sheltering over us

**ALL: God is our fortress**

One: Like a mother hen protecting her young under her wings

**ALL: God is our strength**

One: Until all fear is gone

**ALL: Until the work is finished**

One: In the Eternal One, we find our justice

**ALL: In God, we find our peace**

### Hymn of Praise

### Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days #211

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION: [UNISON]

O Wounded Healer, Mighty and Merciful,

Nothing we say can undo the damage we have done.

As you wept over Jerusalem, we now weep over our world.

You see what we have done with the gifts you have freely given us.

You sought to gather us, but we were not willing.

Your prophets spoke of peace and justice, but we did not have ears to hear.

Now their blood is on our hands.

We have stoned those you have sent.

Now, in our desperation, we pray.

Our lives are in chaos, but we long for your joy.

Beyond our rationalized violence, we yearn for a peace that lasts.

Forgive us, God of mercy and grace. Come again to us, we pray.

Then we will surely say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

God of Love, Blessed Creator, you surround us with beauty,

You open your arms in the protection of a loving embrace.

We take refuge in your divine love.

As the hen gathers her brood, you, gathers us together and show us the power of self-sacrificing love.

May we extend that same love to all who seek refuge. Amen

### \*Pastor's Prayer

### \*Gathering Song: Gathered Here (sung twice)

742

*Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990*

Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong  
bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir-it draw near.

*This chant may be sung as a round.*

## **Readings**

**(See back of bulletin for complete readings)**

**First Reading: - 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 13:29-35**

**Continuing Testament: written by Saint Patrick**

**Youth Anthem    Gather Me Under Your Wings    Christian**

Gather me under your wings, shelter me from the rain;

Mother me, comfort me, hold me, here is my heart, O God. (twice)

And God reminds us every day:

I long to gather you under my wings, shelter you from the rain;

Mother you, comfort you, hold you, rest in my arms and be loved. (twice)

(Music and Words: Kathryn Christian)

Time with  
Young Worshipers

**Anthem                      Shelter Me, O God    Hurd**

Betsey Wilson, flute

Refrain: Shelter me, O God; hide me in the shadow of your wings.

You alone are my hope.

1. When my foes surround me, set me high above their reach.

Hear me when I call your name. (Refrain)

2. As a mother gathers her young beneath her care,

Gather me into your arms. (Refrain)

3. Though I walk in darkness, through needle's eye of death,

You will never leave my side. (Refrain)

(© 1984 by Bob Hurd, b. 1950; this arrangement © 1984 OCP Publications)

**Sermon: "Your Servant is Listening"** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection              Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth    #467**

***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]**

Ever Present, Life Giving God, may these gifts be used to pass on your peace, justice, and healing. Amen.

### **Communion**

**At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.**

**No exceptions. No Kidding.**

#### **Communion Music   O Food to Pilgrims Given**

Betsey Wilson and Erin Tomlinson, flute; Armand Eusanio, clarinet

"O Food to pilgrims given, O Bread of life from heaven,  
O Manna from on high! We hunger; Lord, supply us,  
nor thy delights deny us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh."

(Psalm 6, from Les cent cinquante Pseaumes de David, 1564, alt.; words: Latin, 1661; trans. John A. L. Riley, 1858-1945, alt.)

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion**

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.

**\* Hymn of Departure      God Be with You    #81, verses 1 & 2**

## Carrying the Light of Christ into the World (Acolyte)

### \* Circle of Community **Hear Our Prayer, O God**

George Whelpton, 1897



### \***Benediction**

### **Postlude**      *Kyrie eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)*      **Hassler, setting McGregor**

## Readings

### **First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (NRSV)**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to God under Eli. The word of God was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple, where the ark of God was.

Then God called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. God called again, "Samuel!"

Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know God, and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him.

God called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that God was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, oh God, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now God came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, oh God, for your servant is listening."

### **Gospel Reading Luke 13:29-35 (NRSV)**

Jesus said, "People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Holy One.'"

### **Continuing Testament written by Saint Patrick**

I, Patrick, – an unlearned sinner indeed – have been established a bishop in Ireland. I hold quite certainly that what I am, I have accepted from God. I live as an alien among non-Roman peoples, an exile on account of the love of God... And the truth of Christ enlivens me, for love of neighbors and children: for these, I have given up my homeland and my parents, and my very life to death.

The newly baptized and anointed were dressed in white robes; the anointing was still to be seen clearly on their foreheads when they were cruelly slain and sacrificed by the sword of [the soldiers of Coroticus.] On the day after that, I sent a letter to ask that they return to us the baptized prisoners they had captured, and the booty they took.

I do not know what to say, or how I can say any more, about the children of God who are dead, whom the sword has touched so cruelly. All I can do is what is written: 'Weep with those who weep'; and again: 'If one member suffers pain, let all the members suffer the pain with it'. This is why the church mourns and weeps for its sons and daughters whom the sword has not yet slain, but who were taken away and enslaved in far distant lands.

I grieve for you who are so very dear to me. And yet I rejoice within myself: I have not worked for nothing; my wanderings have not been in vain. This unspeakably horrifying crime has been carried out. Yet, you will reign with apostles and prophets and martyrs. You will take possession of an eternal kingdom.



So where will Coroticus and his villainous rebels against Christ find themselves – those who divide out defenseless baptized women as prizes, all for the sake of a miserable temporal kingdom, which will pass away in a moment of time? Just as cloud of smoke is blown away by the wind.

However late it may be, may they repent of acting so wrongly, the murder of the brethren of the Lord, and set free the baptized women prisoners whom they previously seized. So may they deserve to live for God, and be made whole here and in eternity. Peace to you in the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Announcements:**

#### **One Great Hour of Sharing - Special Offering Collection will be Sunday March 30**

- "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives." (Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

**PRM-** Do you have a concern about the church, the Pastor, something else? We have just the place for you to go to have your concerns addressed. It's called the Pastoral Relations Ministry or PRM (formerly the Pastoral Relations Committee, PRC).

What is the PRM? It is a standing committee of BUCC devoted to promoting strong relations between the congregation and our Pastor, John King. It is not unique to us but is a recommended ministry in all UCC churches. What does this mean to you? It means that if you have a concern or issue

with either the church or Pastor John you can come to anyone on the PRM, tell them your issue, and it will be brought to the attention of our Pastor. I can promise you that all concerns will be taken seriously and will be addressed in a timely manner. Of course, you are also free to bring your concern directly to Pastor John's attention. This would, of course, be a great first option. If, however, you are not comfortable doing that then bring your concerns to one of the Ministry members and we will bring it to him directly. The members of this Ministry are Bob Chandler, Jill Zedan, Mark Lehman, Melanie Kay Falls and Rose Kaval, Chairperson. We are eager to help you in any way we can.

**Lenten Series-** our Lenten interfaith pilgrimage continues. This Friday we will visit Temple Israel, a Jewish synagogue, located at 91 Springside Dr, Akron, OH 44333. Registered or not for our Lenten series, if you would like to join, we will be gathering at the synagogue at 6:00pm and will have time after to meet with Rabbi Brown and will be able to see Torah scrolls up close.

**Flowers-** Today's flowers are dedicated "in gratitude for a long happy marriage on our 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary" by Peg and Jim Duffy

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

Tue. Mar 18	8:15 am – "Holy Grounds" at Panera 6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall) 7:30 pm – Communication & Outreach
Wed. Mar 19	11:00 am - Mindfulness & Meditation 6:00 pm – Braver Angels
Thur. Mar 20	5:30 pm – Youth Choir 7:00 pm - Choir Practice

### **HOLY GROUNDS**

Join Pastor John for an informal conversation and a cup of coffee at Panera (Brecksville). On most Tuesdays, at 8:15-9:15 you can stop by anytime, to talk about whatever is on your mind. You never know who might stop by! Of course, if you are looking for a more private conversation, you can always set up an appointment with Rev. John anytime you like.



[www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com](http://www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com)



### March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Early Usher:	Diane Gressley
Late Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Reader:	Rose Kaval
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King Peg Duffy
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor
Snacks:	Armand Eusano Sherrill Witt
Set Up/Serve:	Carol Miller Sherrill Witt
Clean Up:	Sherrill Witt
Communion Bread:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

### March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Reader:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snack:	Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Janet Renovetz Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>



The sanctuary art this week is "Snowy Owl Hiding" by Tatiana Iliina (2022)

Attendance last Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 50; Kids: 7; Online: 38; Total: 95  
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Isaiah 55: 1-3, 5d-12** and **Matthew 18:15-20**



## **CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY**

*This year we will be using azaleas as our Easter flowers. If you would like to dedicate a flower, please fill out this form and return with payment to the office or the collection basket. Don't forget to check below if you will take it home after Easter or donate it to the church for homebound members or decoration. Thank you!*

**DEADLINE – April 2**

**I Enclose \$15 for each Azalea      cash: \_\_\_\_\_      check : \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please check one:**

**I will take the flower(s) home \_\_\_\_\_**

**I will leave the flower(s) for church use \_\_\_\_\_**

**"In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_**

**"**

**"In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_**

**"**

**Other      " \_\_\_\_\_**

**"**

**Your Name**